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PLO OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON DETERRENT FORCES DECISION

NC260907Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0803 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 March--The PLO representative in the UAE, Ribhi Hallum, has stated that the resistance has received information that the decision issued by the Arab deterrent forces command banning the entry of volunteers and arms meant for the resistance [in south Lebanon] was made at the request of the Lebanese authorities and that the Syrian authorities learned of the decision only after it was issued.

In a statement published in the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, Hallum added that a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi is now visiting Damascus to discuss the deterrent forces' decision with the Syrian leaders.

Hallum said that the decision is the price for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He added: The Lebanese authorities have the right to decide what they deem appropriate. We are guests of Lebanon and will not interfere in its affairs unless the matter affects the fate of the Palestinian resistance.

Hallum emphasized in conclusion that the isolationist forces in Lebanon are preparing for a new battle in Beirut as part of a plan to strike at the Palestinian revolution.

ABU IYAD SAYS PLO WILL NOT ACCEPT LEBANON CEASE-FIRE

TA251635Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Mar 78 TA

[Text] In Paris Abu Iyad, 'Arafat's deputy, says in an interview with a French weekly that the terrorists will not abide by a cease-fire in southern Lebanon despite the pressures from Arab countries. This interview is published in the weekly NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR.

Abu Iyad says that a cease-fire is tantamount to the end of the Palestinian revolution.

QADDUMI SAYS RESISTANCE WILL FACILITATE TASK OF UN

JN260528Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, yesterday stressed the necessity of consultations and cooperation between Syria and the PLO. He said that this is essential in the confrontation of Israel. He also affirmed that the Palestinian resistance will seek to facilitate the task of the UN emergency force to bring about the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

In a press statement yesterday, Qaddumi explained that it is quite proper for us to seek to facilitate the measures which were taken on the Arab and international levels aimed at bringing about an Israeli withdrawal.

PALESTINIAN PAPER ISSUES WARNING TO UN FORCES

JN241531Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1503 GMT 24 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH MUSTAMMIRAH [THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES] has stated that the decision to place UN forces at the three bridges linking the regions south of the Litani River to the northern regions reveals that the duty of these forces is to strike at any movement of the joint forces, not at the invading Zionist forces.

The paper, organ of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, further says that if the task of the UN emergency forces is to continue the implementation of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies, then the Palestinian and Lebanese revolutionaries will have new tasks to prevent the implementation of such a goal.

Warning the UN forces, the paper says that the fighters of the joint forces will continue to strike at the invasion forces and at all who try to protect these forces.

SWEDEN DENIES PALESTINIANS FIRE ON ITS UNIFIL TROOPS

TA261619Y Paris AFP in English 1605 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Stockholm, March 26 (AFP)--A Swedish national defence spokesman today denied Israeli reports that firing in the vicinity of a south Lebanese bridge today was directed by Palestinians at Swedish soldiers in the new U.N. Interim forces in Lebanon.

The outbreak, by the Khardalah Bridge over the Litani River near Tyre, was between Palestinians and Israelis while a Swedish reconnaissance unit was on the bridge, and the Swedes were not the target, the spokesman said.

The Swedish soldiers later regained their base without any injured, he added. According to the Israeli reports, by Israeli military correspondents quoting local Lebanese residents, Palestinian firing had prevented the Swedes from occupying the bridge.

PFLP SPOKESMAN: OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE

JN252043Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2026 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 March--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has stressed that the forces of the Palestinian revolution will continue to strike at Zionist enemy positions and that they will not allow any obstacle placed in the way to prevent them from doing so.

In a statement today the official spokesman for the front called on the Arab masses to act and support the forces of the Lebanese and Palestinian revolution. He also affirmed that the revolution will escalate its operations inside the occupied territories.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN REPORTS ON FIGHTING

NC241332Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 24 March--A statement issued by a Palestinian military spokesman at noon today emphasized that intermittent clashes are still continuing between the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces and the enemy forces on all lines in southern Lebanon. Artillery, tanks and machineguns are being used in these clashes. The statement, released by the PLO office in Doha, said that yesterday the joint forces carried out four operations against the enemy in southern Lebanon, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment.

In the first operation, the joint forces shelled enemy vehicle parks in Tallat Balat and Tallat Abu an-Nasr in retaliation for the enemy's artillery and rocket fire on the positions of the joint forces on the Heights of Kawkaba, Al-Litani and Qilya. The statement said that fire was seen raging in some enemy vehicles. The enemy was also seen removing casualties.

According to the statement, in the second operation a rocket unit belonging to the joint forces attacked enemy concentrations in Al-Mtullah and Marj 'Uyun, scoring direct hits.

The military statement said that in the third operation a joint forces group stormed an enemy forward position in Al-Hannawiyah in the western sector. In the 15-minute clash, the group killed most of the men manning the position, destroyed two enemy vehicles and returned to its base safely.

In the fourth operation, a joint forces unit operating behind enemy lines launched three raids on enemy positions in the eastern sector of Al-'Urqub area. It also ambushed an enemy military vehicle between Al-Mtullah and Marj 'Uyun, attacking it with BS-7 projectiles and scoring direct hits. Another unit mined the road leading to Ibil as-Saqi. The mine exploded under an enemy vehicle this morning.

'ARAFAT SAYS ISRAEL PLANNED LEBANON INVASION YEARS AGO

LD251948Y Budapest MTI in English 1715 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Budapest, March 25 (MTI)--Israel has been preparing for long years to occupy southern Lebanon by military force--declared Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in an interview he gave in Beirut to a Hungarian television reporter.

'Arafat quoted American leaders, especially former Secretary of State Kissinger, who had told: Israel had been planning for six years to overrun south Lebanon with its army and to expand its own borders till the line of Litani River. Israel launched a similar attack in 1972 when the fightings lasted a few days--said 'Arafat and pointed out: The Palestine commando action near Tel Aviv was just a pretext for the ready plan to be carried out. The American administration practically gave their blessing for the aggression, added the Palestine leader.

The purpose of Tel Aviv was to annihilate the Palestine movement and the progressive forces in Lebanon, 'Arafat went on. Their hope was that the common military units would be destroyed in a matter of few hours. But the war lasted for 8 days [word indistinct] has not yet reached its end. This was the fifth Arab-Israel war, the Palestine leader said. Israel's military superiority and its use of the most up-to-date types of weapons have not been able to wind up the Palestine revolution. Doomed to failure were all the Israeli attempts to occupy the [word indistinct] Tyre. The Israeli troops have only control over the main traffic and military centres while guerrilla warfare is going on against them. This will continue as long as the Israelis do not pull out of the area--said 'Arafat.

The PLO leader stressed that in south Lebanon were for the first time employed certain American weapons, e.g., the F-15 bombing fighter plane. Six to seven hundred Israeli soldiers, according to 'Arafat, were killed in the battles or were wounded. Furthermore, five Israeli planes came down and more than 100 military vehicles were destroyed.

'Arafat next said: The invasion took unawares the front of progressive Arab countries which had been formed in Tripoli, so these countries were unable to render help to the Palestinians. Israel will not withdraw completely from the occupied territory of south Lebanon although they asserted to pull out within one week. Even the expected partial withdrawal would only ensue because international public opinion, the socialist countries and many of Israel's own supporters heavily condemned the barbarous air-raids against the civil population and the blood-shed which has cost the lives of many victims and by which Israel has wiped out many south Lebanese settlements from the face of the earth.

'Arafat next declared: The invasion and the resistance by the progressive forces have sweeped away once and for all Egyptian President as-Sadat's plan of capitulation. Referring to the alleged Carter-Begin antagonism which is said to have cropped up in the course of the Washington conversations, 'Arafat simply called them "a political comedy." "Without political, economic and military support by the United States," he pointed out, "Israel would never be able to pursue its policy of aggression."

Speaking of the UNO forces stationed temporarily on the territory of south Lebanon, 'Arafat declared: Despite different interpretations of their function by the concerned parties, the essential task of these forces is to promote and to control the instant and complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon.

For the goal to put an end to the Israeli aggression in south Lebanon, 'Arafat attached particular importance to the established links of cooperation with the socialist countries, furthermore to a practical and real concentration of the progressive Arab forces. He spoke words of appreciation for the support and solidarity offered by the Soviet Union and the rest of socialist countries, including Hungary. 'Arafat said: The way of solving the crisis is to withdraw at once and unconditionally the troops of Israel from south Lebanon--to guarantee for the people of Palestine all the rights that are laid down in official documents and agreements--to reach a state of national reconciliation among the various political forces of Lebanon.

OPEC MEETING REPORTEDLY NOT TO DISCUSS PRICES

NC261155Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 26 March--All the OPEC member states have agreed to attend the emergency meeting of the OPEC oil ministers which is scheduled to be held 3-4 April at the request of Kuwait to discuss the question of the dollar.

The Saudi newspaper AR-RIYAD today quotes informed sources has having stated that the OPEC ministerial conference will discuss the results of the economic and financial study on the proposed plan for a currency basket.

Quoting the same sources, the paper asserts that the OPEC ministerial council will not discuss oil prices.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL TO MEET IN CAIRO ON 27 MARCH

NC251549Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Mauritania, the YAR, Djibouti and the UAE have informed the Arab League that their foreign ministers will head their countries' delegations to the forthcoming Arab League Council meetings which will begin on Monday.

The Arab League Council will discuss the Arab and international situation vis-a-vis the Middle East crisis, the restoration of Arab solidarity, Red Sea security and Arab-U.S. relations. The council will also discuss the apolication of the Comoros to join the Arab League and the renewal of the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon for another 6 months.

AS-SADAT CHAIRS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

Topics To Be Discussed

LD250118Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 March--Cairo papers to be published Saturday say that the National Security Council will discuss at its meeting tomorrow under President Anwar as-Sadat a number of important Arab and international topics and issues, the foremost of which is Egyptian strategy in facing recent developments in the Middle East problem.

AL-AHRAM adds that the National Security Council discussions will deal with five topics, which are:

1. The international situation in the Middle East in light of the messages President as-Sadat has exchanged with world leaders, Arab leaders and leaders of the nonalined states.

2. Discussion of a report by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil regarding the outcome of the talks in Washington between President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the reports President as-Sadat received from Washington on these talks. Discussion will also deal with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Herman Eilt's report to the Egyptian foreign minister and the report on the subject by Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, Egyptian ambassador in Washington.

3. Discussion of the situation in southern Lebanon and the international efforts that Egypt, the United States, Security Council member states and the EEC countries have carried out in order to make Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon in light of reports by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Egyptian permanent UN delegate Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

4. The Arab situation in light of the messages President as-Sadat has exchanged with King Husayn, King Hassan II and King Khalid.

5. The Palestinian problem and ways to deal with it in light of the recent changes as well as Egypt's role of continuing support for the Palestinian position.

Council Meets in 'Abidin Palace

NC251304Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The National Security Council met this afternoon under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat in 'Abidin Palace. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Speaker of the People's Assembly Engineer Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, First Secretary of the ASU Central Committee Dr Mustafa Khalil, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Minister of Interior Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il and Chief of the General Intelligence Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Our correspondent has learned that the council discussed the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the recent events in southern Lebanon.

Kamil Comments on Meeting

NC2515392 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] The National Security Council met this afternoon under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat in 'Abidin Palace.

Following the meeting, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil said that the National Security Council discussed the recent events in the Middle East, especially the situation in southern Lebanon.

The National Security Council expressed appreciation for the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the stationing of UN forces there. The National Security Council also discussed recent developments and the results of Mr Begin's visit to the United States and his talks with President Carter.

The foreign minister added that Egypt will continue its efforts to achieve peace in the area on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and the providing of security and peace in the area.

Comments on Talks With Israel

JN2515422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has announced that the National Security Council today discussed the recent developments in the Middle East, especially the situation in southern Lebanon. Asked about the resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli talks, the foreign minister said: I have said that in principle we support the continuation of the peace talks. However, here once again we must wait and see what the Israeli position will be on Resolution 242, the question of the settlements and all other subjects.

The foreign minister emphasized Egypt's desire to continue the talks. He said: We will, however, discuss our position. However, in principle we will not close the doors to a just and comprehensive settlement on the bases I have mentioned.

The minister said that the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints on the recent proposals are not close. He said: We will wait to the extent that there is a possibility of progress from Israel in response to the initiative. For our part, we have expressed our ideas and welcomed a settlement on the bases I have mentioned. We also welcome the establishment of the neighborly relations in the event of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and its recognition of Palestinian rights.

AL-AHRAM: CARTER TO CONSULT WITH AS-SADAT

LD2500342 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2330 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports in Saturday's issue that President Jimmy Carter has decided to hold urgent consultations with President Anwar as-Sadat regarding the steps and decisions that could be taken in light of the outcome of the talks he held with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Washington, which ended in total failure.

The paper says that President Carter has charged his ambassador in Cairo, Hermann Eilts, to meet with President as-Sadat in order to inform him of the outcome of the Washington talks. The meeting is to take place tomorrow, Saturday, before the meeting of the Egyptian National Security Council. The U.S. ambassador has also asked for a meeting tomorrow with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, AL-AHRAM adds.

As-Sadat Receives U.S. Ambassador

NC251322Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat received this afternoon in his office at the Republican Palace in 'Abidin the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Hermann Eilts. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak and Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

The U.S. ambassador said later that he presented to President as-Sadat a report on the recent talks in Washington. Asked whether U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance or Assistant Secretary Alfred Atherton will visit the Middle East, the ambassador said: Contacts are continuing between Egypt and the United States in relation to the Middle East problem.

Asked whether Israeli Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman will visit Cairo, the ambassador said: This question should be addressed to him.

GHURBAL EN ROUTE WITH CARTER MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC261844Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 26 March--MENA has learned that the Egyptian ambassador to the United States, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, who has left Washington en route to Cairo, is carrying a message from U.S. President Jimmy Carter to President Anwar as-Sadat.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS TO U.S. UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

NC261531Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has again asked the United States and President Jimmy Carter to deal with the Middle East problem as a full partner and not as a negotiator or mediator. At a meeting today with the American university delegation which is currently visiting Cairo, President as-Sadat pointed out that despite the fact that he has provided all guarantees for its security, Israel still wants security at the expense of our land.

President as-Sadat explained that the aim of his historic initiative is to provide security and tranquillity to man and all future generations and that he embarked on this initiative on the basis of "boldness of the heart and the adoption of decisions of which we are convinced." He added: "We will continue to hold the initiative in our hands, and we will remain the masters of our destiny."

The meeting between President as-Sadat and the American university delegation was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, chief of the president's office Hasan Kamil and Education Minister Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi.

President as-Sadat opened the meeting with a speech in which he greeted the American people and president through the deans of universities.

At the dialog which took place between his excellency and the American university delegation President Anwar as-Sadat affirmed that if all aspects of the Palestinian problem are solved, then 90 percent of the other problems will be solved and we will attain peace in record time.

His excellency said that all the world must reject violence, which is becoming apparent in more than one place. President as-Sadat then referred to Egypt's good relations with the African states saying that Egypt's policy revolves in three circles: the Arab circle, the African circle and the Islamic circle.

President as-Sadat explained to the American delegation that Egypt is planning for the year 2000 in all fields and that the aim is to conquer the desert to find food and houses and establish new societies. Foreign expertise establishments will participate in establishing these societies with the most modern methods of technology. His excellency added that the new generation will find Egypt is living in a larger area than the present one. President as-Sadat went on: If we cut down on military expenditure, miracles can be worked out on this land. This is why the peace process is important to us.

The president's meeting with the American university delegation began with a speech by Education Minister Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, who introduced the delegation to the president. The leader of the delegation Cecil Macky, who is the dean of the University of Texas [title as received], then spoke, thanking the president for providing an opportunity for this meeting. He praised the president's heroism, the peace initiative and his continuing efforts to establish peace in the area.

President as-Sadat then delivered a short speech, after which the dialog between the deans of universities and President as-Sadat began. It should be noted that the American university delegation, which consists of 16 university deans, arrived in Egypt on Wednesday at the invitation of the education minister. The delegation came for consultations with the deans of the Egyptian universities on strengthening cooperation between the universities in Egypt and the United States in the fields of education, higher studies and scientific research. The American delegation has visited the universities of Alexandria, Tanta and Hulwan, and it will spend another week in Cairo for this purpose.

Dialog With Professors

LD262238Y Cairo MENA in English 1718 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[President Anwar as-Sadat's dialog with a delegation of American university professors in Cairo on 26 March]

[Text] Cairo, Mar 26--(MENA)--President: I welcome you here, in the name of the Egyptian people and in my name. And may I seize this opportunity to ask you to convey to the people of the United States our gratitude, my people's gratitude, for the understanding and help that we received, for the very warm welcome accorded whenever I visited the states and also the sincere help that we received from you, especially from the Congress and from American people.

In his speech, the head of the U.S. delegation said: "We are very grateful for the invitation from the Ministry of Education to come to Egypt and discuss matters of mutual concern in our education. We know from our experience in our campuses and our communities, which stretch throughout the United States, that the American people are vitally interested in the future of your country.

"You are, we believe, the most widely known and, without a doubt, the most highly respected international leader among millions of American people today. We share the concern of your people for the future of education as a base for building peace. So we hope to develop strong cooperative agreements with your universities, with your faculty members and with your students. We have had wonderful cooperation and hospitality from the minister and members of his staff, from the university presidents and the university families."

The leader of the American delegation also said: "We look forward to several more days of intensive work and we are confident that this type of exchange can lay the basis for better understanding and for some solutions to the problems that we all face. We have brought several tokens that we would like to present to you, and we would also appreciate the opportunity which we understand we may have to ask you some questions. Perhaps the most pressing question in our minds is your estimate of the future of developments in this part of the world in light of the obvious failure of the summit talks between Mr. Begin and Mr. Carter, and perhaps you could tell us your views as to what you think is the proper role for the American Government, and for the American people, so that we can help communicate this to our colleagues who are so interested. I would like to present you with these things."

In reply to a question, President as-Sadat said: "Well, let me tell you in all frankness that we can achieve peace in the area here provided that the new conception and the new facts that have appeared here in the area here after my visit to Jeruslaem, whenever this new conception prevails, I assure you, not in months, but in days we can reach a solution. [sentence as received] In Egypt, here, we have got rid of all problems: bitterness, hatred. Immediately after my visit to Jeruslaem you must have seen my people when they came out to salute me after my return and they have expressed themselves before the whole world, and they are sincere until this moment. This is our land. We have not complexes any more, no bitterness, no hatred, nothing at all. We had our revenge in the October war. And after that, as civilised people who have got a history of seven thousand years behind them, we have got rid of everything after the October war."

The other language that we are hearing is from the Israeli side. They are still holding the old conception. For that, for instance, when we say that we are ready for good neighbourhood--whatever in the dictionary on this right good neighbourhood--we are ready to convene tomorrow, provided that no good neighbour treads on his neighbour's land or property. So, this is our language. Their language is that they are trying to exploit security, which we have recognized. I recognise that there is an issue of security for Israel that should be met by all of us in the Arab world. But, on the other hand, they should meet also our security. I recognised their right to be secure and offered six points for this security [and] to sit round a table and talk like civilised people and reach an agreement provided, as I said, that nobody treads on other's land or property. Their language is that they need our land for security. They need our sovereignty for security, and they want to impose the old way of conditions, which they could not impose even after our defeat. They could not impose any political decisions. The whole thing was under the name of peace, security and, well, we are speaking two different languages.

President As-Sadat went on to say I am optimistic and I shall be optimistic and we shall always honour our initiative and honour our obligations. What we have already stated and, as I told Begin before he left for the States, I never go back on my word. Whatever obligations we have stated we are ready to fulfill. Our initiative, really, has been sponsored by the millions all over the world, mainly by the people of the United States, and, as I said during my last visit to President Carter in Washington, I am proud of him really, because the overwhelming welcome that I received from the American people, and the Jewish community also, is something that I can never really forget, and from our part we shall never let you down at all. It is a matter of time only.

In reply to another question, the president said: Well, let me tell you this. In my last visit to the United States I stated before the Foreign Relations Committee in the Congress and in the Senate and to President Carter and before the American people that the United States is not a co-chairman only in this Geneva conference.... No, the United States should act as a full partner. I told Begin this before he left for the States. I told President Carter this in Camp David, and again I declared it after I arrived here. "You are to act as a full partner, not as a mediator or so and so..." mean [meaning] you should hold your responsibility as a full partner.

Question: Mr. President, what do you see as your most pressing problem?

President: Two problems: food and housing. For that I am concentrating in the next three years. We have started one year before, and the programme will be continuing until the end of 1980. I think we shall be self-supporting in food, except meat. And then housing. We have a rather very acute problem in housing here; because we ignored the services on the pretext that we should build factories for production and so.... Then after that we are thinking now, last year, for instance, we had a complete failure of our services, the telephones system, drainage or so, communications and so, but starting from last year, the Germans are working to solve the telephone problem. On other problems also we are working very hard. But the whole pressing problem, as I told you, is the food problem and the housing problem.

Question: Mr. President, most Americans, and particularly the younger ones, were fascinated by the "man" when you were there. Could you tell us about the impact that came on you personally?

President: Well, I am very happy to hear this from you. What I am trying to do is, for example, let us take the initiative as an example. When I started as president my main task was to provide security for the individual, because the individual was not secure at all. But we have adopted a socialist system and imported Marxism, and you know in Marxism the individual is a device for the community. And then those who benefited from this in that Marxist system are the party, and the leaders of the party; it is not the community or the system. We had the [that] here. I started with providing security for the individual. I wanted to provide security for my people and for the future generations. Whenever I reach this conviction, I never give heed to anything except fulfilling this objective, and I took my step and, luckily and fortunately, it was met with the approval and endorsement of hundreds of millions all over the world. I learnt many things when I was in prison.

I learnt, for instance, that courage is not the physical aspect of the body or shouting or so.... Courage should be the courage of the heart--to take a decision and however you are convinced you should act in a way that would be for the benefit of the people to whom you are responsible. I learnt also about success. Lots see that the success that the others see in him is the most important. No.... I learnt and experienced that the inner success, that I feel myself is whether it is shown by the people or not.

In reply to a question on terrorism, the president said: "You remember, lately, a month ago, one of our eminent writers was assassinated in Cyprus. We acted after that despite the very unfortunate incident from the Cypriot side, shooting my commandos in the back. I think it is time that all of us, the whole world, should show those terrorists that they can never find harbour in any place. This all of us should do. We have read about the kidnapping lately of the [former] Italian prime minister--then the other group there in Germany. Well, I think it is time we should impose the severest measures and never give harbour to any terrorists."

In answer to another question, President as-Sadat said: "Well, you must be fair when you ask me such a question, because I can guarantee the security of Israel from my borders in Sinai. If I am asked more than this, well, I shall have to study it. But whenever we go direct to the crux of the whole problem, and this is the Palestinian problem, if we go directly and solve it, ninety percent of these side issues will be solved automatically. I am ready to provide security on my borders and to help security on others' borders."

Replying to another question, the president said: Since two years ago, we are self-sufficient in energy, because we produce our oil and we produce 15 millions tons a year. Our consumption is from 8 to 9 million tons--the rest we export. Those who are collaborating with us are your people from Amoco, from Chicago, with them I have put a plan to produce one million barrels a day in 1980.

We have it all, it is under the sea-water of the Suez Gulf, but the Israelis are making great difficulties for us because most of this oil is on the shore and near the shore under the water where there are still Israelis. They are making great difficulties for us. Then the programme may be delayed. Now, this day, we reached more than 600 thousand barrels a day. A million barrels a day in 1980 is more feasible because we have the oil already; it is only digging the wells to collect the amount. And this is one of the important issues that lessened the inflation that is in the world here, in Egypt.

Question: Mr President, how is your peace initiative now regarded by the other countries of the Arab world?

President: Well, in the Arab world, you know, we are accustomed to conflicts. We have what we call the rejection camp. Those are against my initiative, and they have always been like this. Before the October war, during the October war, after the October war, they never took any active role except the negative one.

They tried their best in the first disengagement agreement, in the second disengagement agreement, and after my initiative, but they will never influence anything at all, and the simple fact that we made the first disengagement agreement and the second disengagement agreement, and we are now negotiating the comprehensive settlement is a fact that they cannot influence anything. The rest of the Arab world--because as I told you in the Arab world we are always full of compliments towards each other--they chose to be silent.

But they are the majority and the vast majority, but as they thought it themselves, they are supporting whatever can be reached as a just solution for the problem. [sentence as received] Even one of the rejectionists, Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, whenever he [has] met with your press, he says that he is for a peaceful solution but not through As-Sadat.

In reply to another question, the president said: "As I told you, in this area and in the Arab world, Egypt has a history of 7,000 years. Egypt has a leading role, it has always fulfilled it. Lots of states are still young nations, but Egypt is the oldest in the whole world. Geographically and geopolitically, because of our position in the center of three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia, for many reasons, in the Bible, Moses was here in Egypt, Christ and his mother came and took refuge here, and Egypt has defended Islam for more than 1000 years. Since the 19th century we were in contact with Europe, even before lots of the nations in this area came into being. Beginning from the 19th century we had very close contact with Europe, and we had our students there, especially in France. For all these reasons, politically, geopolitically, and historically, Egypt has a certain role in the area and among its sister nations in the Arab world, and everyone recognizes it. They do not deny it."

Answering another question, President As-Sadat said: We have the best relations with our African brothers and colleagues, really, and I am happy to say that all of them, in my initiative, they have supported very strongly my initiative, they have supported very strongly my initiative in the African world. On the other hand, we are taking our share in providing the liberation movement with aid to our brothers in Africa. Well, let me say this, we have three circles to move in , in Egypt here: the Arab circle, the African circle and the Moslem circle. We have 700 million moslems all over the world. These are the three circles of the Egyptian policy.

Question: We all have great admiration for your leadership for peace. We realize that if peace is achieved it means a lot to Egypt; it would help us understand each other. Could you sketch for us what you would like to see in Egypt happen in the next ten or 20 years in social-economic development in general?

President: Well, let me tell you this--the military expenditure, you cannot imagine how it harms my economy here. One hundred million pounds only--if they can be spared from the military expenditure, miracles can be achieved here.

For that, I am really doing my best to reach peace and to establish peace, because this country needs to be reconstructed on the latest technology and it is available now--the United States, starting with Europe, all Western Europe, England, Germany, France and we are already having joint ventures either with you or with others. But lots can be achieved. Let me give you some examples of my plan for the year 2000. If you go and visit the Suez Canal area and see the project that the Japanese are working on. The first phase of this project will be completed by 1980, but my plan until the year 2000 continues and will continue. By 1980, as I told you, the canal will receive ships of 200,000 tons, filled, not empty; now they pass empty. By the year 2000, the canal will be a two-way waterway. Each year from now--and for that I asked you to visit it and see something on the spot--it will be a new waterway. Every year now we are completing a small part, and by the year 2000 we shall have a two-way waterway in the Suez Canal. This example is in the Suez Canal. On all other activities of the country I have planned them on the same lines for the year 2000.

My main concern now is what I have already called the drive to the West, like you have done in the past century, started new communities, production, new land. This will help me in the food problem because they will be planting new land, and help me also in the housing problem. We have started this drive, and we have made a final project for it which is now underway. I hope that by the year 2000 this drive to the West, I called it to the West, in spite of the fact that part of it will be to the East, but I hope [for] new cities, new communities. We have asked most of planning firms in the whole world. For instance, an American plan, a new city called As-Sadat, on the desert road. A dutch plan, the 10th of Ramadan, that has already started on the road between Cairo and Ismailia. A British plan covering the whole Suez Canal area including the three cities--Port Said, Ismailia and Suez, according to the latest technology and the latest plan. So, let me hope, I do not think I whall be living by that time, but our future generations will see Egypt, instead of living on 40 percent only of the area, like we are now, and like we used to live when we were three million, we lived on this same area, three million, 20 million, 40 million now. The water and the five-year drive to the West will change the whole georgraphy of this country by the year 2000. Everything I tell you is really studied and we are applying it now.

Question: Your Excellency, your remarks about settling new lands, a picture of that great ethic of Germany. [sentence as received] It is a marvellous image to think of you doing the same thing but I would like to come back to the purpose of our mission in visiting your country and ask you, sir, in what way can the institutions of higher education in the United States be of assistance to you and to your country?

President: Well, it is exactly as my minister of education has said: Our education is very conservative. It was started by the British here, and you know the British are very conservative, always. In the United States, there is intensive research, and the university education helps the community. I have an example of this. I told my people, in 1966, I was visiting the United States at the time as speaker of our National Assembly. I visited California. I asked to visit the plantations there, and they told me about an experience they had there. They were planting tomatoes and they found that the skin of the tomatoes was so delicate that when the machines came to harvest the crops they harmed a lot of it. Well, they asked immediately the faculty of agriculture in Berkley, with the men of the M.M.C. [as received] to sit together. The M.M.C. re-designed their harvesting machines. I always give this example that education and the universities should serve the community. So, we want to learn this [from] you.

Answering another question, President as-Sadat said: "Well, the difficulty with the Israelis really [word indistinct] that there are, as I told you, sticking to the old conception. Then after my initiative, when we were discussing the declaration of principles, what I really meant by this declaration principles is that Israel declare its will to withdraw from the land occupied after 1967, according to Resolution 242 of the Security Council, and solve the Palestinian question in all its aspects. Even those who are very hysterical against me in the Arab world, and to take President al-Asad as an example of this hysteria, he said that he is for a peaceful solution but not through As-Sadat. Whenever Israel declares that she is willing to withdraw from the land occupied after 1967, provided that every party should sit with Israel to discuss the security issues, and its willingness to solve the Palestinian problem, there will be no one in the Arab world who will not welcome it, automatically."

CAIRO CALLS FOR U.S. ACTION FOLLOWING BEGIN TALKS

LD270014Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The world has studied the results of the talks between Carter and Begin and learned of the positions of both parties. We can say that the whole world is now asking what will happen now that Begin has led the situation in the Middle East to its present condition? Who can renew the movement toward peace, and if this party has the power to do so, why has it not rushed to take practical steps? Naturally the world has given up appealing to Begin to respond to President as-Sadat's peace initiative. But the world has not yet despaired about asking the United States to act, for it is the only country that can pressure Israel.

The honest, bold attitude of America, which has committed itself to the implementation of the UN resolution, must now take a positive, clear step against Israel. The world expects and awaits some American steps. We are confident that the Carter administration will adopt some measures. Our assertion in this regard stems basically from our feeling that the United States will respond to the overwhelming international desire that Israel be checked and from certain American stances which have manifested themselves recently with the adoption of the UN Security Council's resolution providing for Israel's immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

We are confident that if Israel had not realized that there was a clearly defined American position on the need for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Israel would not have withdrawn. Why? Because basically Israel seeks expansion. Had Begin not seen for himself how serious the American position on this issue was, he would never have withdrawn from southern Lebanon, for how many unanimous resolutions has the Security Council adopted in the past calling for immediate Israeli withdrawals. Israel did not respect those resolutions, and years have passed without their being implemented. Israel did not respect those resolutions because it enjoyed U.S. support then. But now Israel is withdrawing from southern Lebanese territory because it sees irrevocable American insistence on the need for its withdrawal from southern Lebanon. This is a phenomenon that deserves study and has its significance.

Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in this hasty manner indicates that U.S. President Carter wanted to check Begin before their recent talks in Washington so that the talks would not include Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and from southern Lebanon. Instead of widening the issue, Carter acted quickly to concentrate the talks on the basis issue: Israeli withdrawal and a comprehensive solution.

If this is the power of the United States, the world, as we have already said, looks with concern and expectation to future American steps on the road to a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The American steps against Israel will be difficult. But America must act for numerous well-known considerations, the foremost of which is the need to establish peace based on justice and right in the Middle East.

CABINET DISCUSSES RESULTS OF EMISSARIES' VISITS

JN261503Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 26 March--The cabinet held a meeting today in which it discussed the results of the visits by King Husayns' emissaries to Arab capitals. The emissaries delivered letters from the king to the Arab heads of state concerning his majesty's call for holding an Arab summit conference. It will be recalled that on 17 March, in the wake of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, King Husyan made a speech in which he called upon the Arab heads of state to shoulder their national responsibilities and save the deteriorating Arab situation by evaluating it in an objective and responsible manner, by means of an Arab summit conference, to take measures commensurate with the supreme Arab interests.

IBRAHIM, DELEGATION LEAVE FOR CAIRO TALKS

JN261926Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim this evening left Amman for Cairo at the head of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Arab League council which will be held at the Arab League Secretariat tomorrow at the foreign ministers level. Ibrahim said that he will have consultations with the Arab foreign ministers who will participate in the meeting and will discuss with them the recent Jordanian initiative to convene an Arab summit conference with the aim of strengthening Arab solidarity.

HUSAYN SENDS CONDOLENCES TO IRAQ'S AL-BAKR

JN262000Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husyan today deputized the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad to present condolences to His Excellency President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr of Iraq on the death of his son following the regrettable accident in Baghdad yesterday. Regent and Crown Prince Hasan today sent a cable to His Excellency President Ahamd Hasan al-Bakr expressing profound condolences for the death of his son following the regrettable accident in Baghdad yesterday.

PREMIER BADRAN RECEIVES NABULUS MAYOR

JN270720Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--Yesterday evening Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office Bassam Shak'a, mayor of Nabulus. Also present was 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information and head of the Department of the Occupied Territories Affairs.

PAPERS COMMENT ON ARAB SUMMIT, URGE ARAB UNITY

JN270714Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Arab League meetings will begin in Cairo today. Their agenda includes discussion of the current Arab situation in light of the developments the area is witnessing, particularly after the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon, the Begin-Carter discussions, and the Israeli Knesset decision yesterday to support the intransigence of the Begin government and its insistence on the policy of expansion and aggression..

The Jordanian newspapers adopt different opinions in their editorials today, but the unanimous on the necessity of looking for a formula of Arab understanding capable of opp the Israeli conspiracies and excluding division and rift, which serve only Israel and it greed.

Under the headline "The Desired Hope," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: With all simplicity, the Israeli Government has unanimously decided to support its leader Menahem Begin in defying the counsel and guidelines of the White House and its mediation for achieving peace, after the U.S. military arsenal has provided Israel with a military strength which made it capable of combing southern Lebanon without considering any Arab reaction to that operation. Despite the fact that the Middle East conflict is now governed by the Israeli logic, backed by the military strength of the aggressor, some still believe miracles can happen in the absence of the unity of Arab confrontation.

The paper says: We do not believe in the possibility that the U.S. mediation role will be freed from the influence of Zionist pressure groups within the United States, enabling that country to play a more positive role to support the issues of justice and right, represented by the Arab cause during the past 30 years and until now. Therefore, we still hope for the possibility of a change in the existing Arab situation to one capable of imposing real peace with all the means which the Israeli challenge dictates to the Arabs and the world.

AD-DUSTUR says: The Arab League is still the umbrella for Arab detente or Arab discord. In the past some Arab countries unilaterally boycotted Arab League meetings, but for the first time now, the Arab League is facing a new situation during the meeting of ministers of foreign affairs: This is the boycott of its meetings by a number of Arab countries.

AD-DUSTUR further says: Jordan has proposed a formula for understanding and agreement. What is required now is for some influential Arab countries to support this formula. The summit formula is not for mutual recriminations or for unanimously agreeing on falsehoods, for we are before a real confrontation from which we cannot escape. AD-DUSTUR says: It is difficult to find theoretical ways out of the present contradiction, but what we are sure of is that the dangerous trend threatens all.

AMMAN RADIO URGES CHANGE IN U.S. MEDIATION METHOD

JN251848Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The statements made after Begin's visit to Washington by President Carter and his secretary of state about significant differences in the political stands of the United States and Israel on the peace issues point to one fact: International mediation which is confined just to pushing the conflicting sides to the negotiating table and assisting by giving good advice is no longer the appropriate way to bridge the gap between the two conflicting sides.

If the United States thinks that its role as a mediator should be confined simply to getting the two sides to start talking, then this objective has already been achieved with the fruitless meetings between the Egyptians and the Israelis in Cairo and Tel Aviv. If the influence of the United States on the two sides is not to go beyond giving good advice, then Begin's recent visit to Washington should serve as a lesson.

In light of what has happened, the concept of mediation must be reconsidered so that the mediator will not be a neutral side equating the aggressor and invader with the one whose rights, land and sovereignty have been usurped. We must go back to what King Husayn has said--that international mediation, especially American mediation, must be the ally of justice, peace, the interests and principles of the international community, and the future of all the peoples in the area.

This is what we are expecting from the U.S. stand after its confrontation with reality. We expect the United States to adhere to reality even if it conflicts with the norms of U.S. policy. The U.S. stand will be really meaningful politically and practically when the American people learn the meaning of the Israeli stand and of the policy of the unreserved appeasement of Israel, when they realize the negative effects of the above on the interests of the American people and on the U.S. Middle East policy in achieving peace for both Arabs and Israelis.

We in the Middle East--states and peoples--are now facing the elements of power which the United States has placed in the hands of Israel on the pretext of preserving Israel's existence. We are facing the process of exploiting American sympathy for the purposes of invasion and expansion at the expense of international principles and rights and also at the expense of the very rights which the United States is trying to achieve. This is the first time that the United States and its policies and interests are being confronted with obstacles--obstacles created by its own policies and unreserved aid to Israel. It is no longer a secret that Israel has drawn up this strong policy in order to politically confront the peace mediator--the Carter administration--and to contain and weaken the U.S. stand, thus closing the door to the peace option coming from Washington. It was also drawn up to force the Arab peace partner to decide between the peace terms of the occupier or the alternative of war.

Peace cannot be achieved unless three factors are fulfilled now:

First, there must be a substantive change in the thinking of the Israeli leaders and Zionism. This possibility is remote.

Second, there must be a change in the U.S. concept of mediation. There are no indications that this will take place soon.

Third, there must be a change in the attitude of the Arabs toward each other and their issue. The Arab stand must be consolidated within the framework of a national strategy and national mobilization. The consolidation of the Arab stand might create substantive change both in the thinking of the Israeli enemy and the U.S. mediation method.

AL-AKHBAR: U.S. SHOULD PRESSURE ISRAEL, NOT BEGIN

JN250755Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Pressure on Begin or on Israel," the newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports: Following the failure of the peace talks between the U.S. President and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin during the latter's visit to Washington, speculation has increased regarding the U.S. position toward the suitability of Menahem Begin, considering his intransigence, as Israeli prime minister at a time when circumstances and the search for peace require some Israeli flexibility.

The paper adds: The means for the United States to pressure Begin is to bring pre... to bear on Israel. It can do so politically, militarily and economically. Experience has shown that it can compel Israel to accept peace and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. The mere changing of one prime minister for another, from one party to another, is a waste of time--awaiting fresh U.S. sympathy with Israel to bring about a peace based on Israeli expansion to be presented to the Arabs, as if nothing better could have been done.

The Arabs, who know what the United States is offering Israel, do not accept anything less than the UN resolutions.

AGREEMENT MADE WITH JAPAN FOR RELAY STATION

JN211217Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 78 p 2 JN

[Text] Amman, March 20 (JNA)--The Jordanian Government and Japan's Nippon Electric Co. signed an agreement here today under which the firm will construct a new satellite relay station in Jordan costing $9.5 million, and will introduce improvements to the present station at Al-Baq'ah.

The project will put Jordan in direct touch with Atlantic and Indian Ocean countries, making it a central link in world communications.

Minister of Communication 'Abd al-Ra'uf ar-Rawabidah and the director of Jordan's Telecommunication Corporation, Mr Muhammad Isma'il, signed the agreement on behalf of Jordan.

In a statement after the signature, Mr Isma'il said the new ground satellite relay station will put Jordan in touch with several communication satellites orbiting the earth, including a stationary-orbit satellite over the Atlantic Ocean. The improvements on the existing Al-Baq'ah station will put Jordan in touch with the stationary-orbit communications satellite over the Indian Ocean. This, he said, would make Jordan able to communicate with both Atlantic and Indian Ocean countries, providing telephone and telex links and other services.

He expressed the hope that the new station will start operations seventeen months from now. According to the agreement, construction costs will be paid over a period of eight years.

OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE IN ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

NC260932Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus announced this morning that Lebanon will participate in the seminannual session of the Arab League, which will begin its meetings tomorrow at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. Minister Butrus said that the ambassador in the central administration, Khalil 'Aytani, will leave for Cairo to represent Lebanon together with the Lebanese charge d'affaires, Zaydan Zaydan.

AL-HUSS BEGINS ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST EVACUEES

NC270739Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Huss began his activities yesterday by dealing with the evacuee problems. He spoke on the telephone with the chairman of the higher relief committee, Minister Dr As'ad Riqz, and with all the ministers who are members of the committee. He emphasized that every possible facility should be given to the evacuees. He briefed the committee members on his inspection tour of the evacuee camps and the relief distribution centers in the past 2 days.

Within this framework Prime Minister al-Huss yesterday met with the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beirut, 'Adnan al-Qassar. They discussed the aid which the Chamber of Commerce and all economic departments could provide for the evacuees. After the meeting Al-Qassar said that the chamber has embarked on an aid collection campaign with the cooperation of various bodies. He added that 500 blankets have been obtained by a committee of professors and students of the American University of Beirut. He said these blankets will be distributed among the relief centers today. Meanwhile, the first aid from the Netherlands Government for the relief of southern evacuees arrived yesterday, and an Iranian plane with medical and food supplies has also arrived.

SHAM'UN, AL-JUMAYYIL COMMENT ON SARKIS' STATEMENT

NC241846Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on President Ilyas Sarkis' statement made at the cabinet meeting yesterday, former President Camille Sham'un said today: We agree with President Sarkis' statement. Sham'un called for the implementation of the contents of the president's statement. He said: It is time we departed from generalities and began to tackle matters. Sham'un expressed the belief that the Israelis will withdraw from the south. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil praised President Sarkis' statement and said that the Lebanese yearned for such statements. He called on all parties to declare their position on the president's statement. He said: We must first look after Lebanon and once it is revitalized we should then tackle other issues.

CHAMBER SPEAKER KAMIL AL-AS'AD LEAVES FOR SYRIA

NC250930Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad left for Damascus this morning to discuss with President al-Asad and some Syrian officials the recent developments in southern Lebanon now that the UN forces have undertaken their task of keeping the peace and supervising the withdrawal of the Israeli forces preparatory to the assumption of this task by the legitimate Lebanese authorities.

Returns, Makes Statement

NC252031Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad returned to Beirut tonight after a short visit to Damascus during which he held discussions with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Speaker al-As'ad made the following statement on arrival in Beirut: During my discussions with President al-Asad and the Syrian officials, I felt that the question of the south is the main preoccupation of Syria because of its importance as a purely Lebanese question and the necessity to safeguard Lebanon and preserve the sovereignty of the Lebanese State over its territory and because of its importance and seriousness as a pan-Arab question. Speaker al-As'ad added: In general, I can say that each time we meet with President al-Asad, we form a firm idea and impression that President al-Asad represents at this stage the qualified Arab leadership which seeks the realization of the national aims and works sincerely and impartially toward this end.

DETERRENT FORCES BAN ENTRY OF 'MILITARY CAPABILITIES'

NC241134Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique:

Now that the fighting in the south has stopped as a result of UN Security Council Resolution 425, the UN emergency forces have begun entering the southern area and firing has ceased, and the liberation of the south from Israeli occupation has become a purely Lebanese political matter, any military interference or escalation in the south following the UN intervention will constitute a basic obstruction of the efforts to push forward Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. Therefore, the Arab deterrent forces command has decided:

1. To ban the entry of any kind of military capability, whether equipment or men, into Lebanese territory. It has asked its units to implement this ban as of today.

2. To ban the entry of any kind of aid, whether food, medical supplies or clothing, except through official departments concerned and after the prior approval of this command, in order to determine the source of such aid and where it is being sent. Earlier this week it allowed the entry of two convoys carrying blankets, food, medicine and a medical team.

Command Explains Ban Order

NC261131Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[26 March statement issued by the Arab deterrent forces command]

[Text] To avoid any misinterpretation of the communique issued on 24 March, the Arab deterrent forces command stresses that the ban involves military equipment and men. The entry of other humanitarian aid is permitted within the framework of Lebanese law.

Butrus Comments

NC261130Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Answering a question on the statement made by an official Syrian spokesman on the opening of the Syrian territories for the passage of Arab aid to the south, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Fu'ad Butrus said the official Syrian spokesman's statement does not conflict with the statement issued by the Arab deterrent forces command because these forces, in the execution of their duties on Lebanese territory, are subject to the orders of his excellency the president of the Lebanese Republic.

Minister Butrus added that the stand announced by the official Syrian spokesman expresses the stand and policy of fraternal Syria on its land. When it decided to ban the entry of military reinforcements--equipment and men--the deterrent forces command was following the instructions of the president of the republic. These instructions were based on a correct assessment of Lebanese interests after the fighting on the Lebanese territory had come to an end and after the UN forces began arriving in Lebanon.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ON BAN OF FOODSTUFFS TO REFUGEES

JN250810Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 March--The Central Political Council of the Nationalist and Progressive Forces and Parties held a meeting last night and discussed the official Lebanese decision banning the arrival of foodstuffs to evacuees from southern Lebanon. The council reviewed the political situation in light of the enemy's insistence on continuing his occupation and the escalation of political campaigns to justify occupation and obliterate the basic issue of the immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories.

Muhsin Ibrahim, executive secretary general of the council, stated that the meeting dealt with the current situation in the south, matters pertaining to the problem of refugees and the behavior of the [Lebanese] State regarding foodstuffs and medical aid and relief to the victims. He explained that the council will carry out the necessary contacts with officials to clarify this case and insure the arrival of relief to the victims of the aggression. Sources of the Nationalist Movement report that the authorities prevented the entry into Lebanon of 30 trucks from the Syrian border carrying foodstuffs to the refugees from southern Lebanon. They also stopped some trucks headed to refugee centers in southern Lebanon at the entrance of Sidon.

OFFICIALS WORK ON IMPLEMENTING UN RESOLUTION

NC241350Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Official efforts today were devoted to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution through expediting the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and securing the movement of the UN emergency forces to the positions assigned to them preparatory to the return of the evacuees to their villages. These moves followed the full support given to President Ilyas Sarkis' statement at last night's cabinet meeting.

Sarkis had stressed in his statement that Lebanon rejects interference by any state or quarter in our territory without our consent and that Lebanon will do everything to end such interference because we will only accept being masters of ourselves and our future.

Political circles today unanimously regarded the president's statement as a strong staging point for imposing the state's authority over all Lebanese territory and for checking any violation by any side--a matter agreed upon by all the Lebanese as being the proper approach to achieving detente and consolidating political stability and security.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus today held consultations and contacts centered on the following points: 1) Facilitating the entry of UN emergency forces into southern Lebanon as a prelude to Israeli withdrawal and the return of the evacuees; 2) intensifying the contacts in order to improve the atmosphere and preparing a positive dialog aimed at achieving the national objectives, which are a common factor among the Lebanese; 3) supervising the evacuees' affairs by guaranteeing their welfare, returning them to their villages and handling their humanitarian problems. This is particularly important because they have endured the heavy burden of events and the difficult consequences.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has held contacts with most parties concerned in order to solve these problems. He will continue his contacts this afternoon in order to achieve fast results in this respect.

Butrus, Khaddam Discuss UN Mission

NC252042Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus received a telephone call tonight from Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The two men held consultations and exchanged information about the visit which General Siilasvuo, the coordinator in chief of the UN emergency forces, paid to Beirut and Damascus and about the execution of the tasks assigned to him in Lebanon.

Minister Khaddam informed his Lebanese counterpart that President Hafiz al-Asad has instructed that aid consisting of 7,000 tons of wheat and 1,000 tons of lentils be immediately dispatched to the southern refugees.

SIILASVUO ARRIVES IN BEIRUT FROM JERUSALEM

NC250945Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] General Siilasvuo, coordinator in chief of the UN emergency forces, arrived in Beirut from Jerusalem this morning. He went immediately to the Defense Ministry where he met with Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus. Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri attended the meeting.

General Siilasvuo will be leaving for Damascus at any moment to discuss with the Syrian authorities the role of the Syrian forces operating as part of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon and their cooperation in the implementation of the recent UN Security Council resolution as well as the mission of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon.

Norwegian UN Contingent Arrives

NC260533Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The first unit of the Norwegian contingent arrived in Lebanon early this morning to join the UN emergency forces which have taken up position in southern Lebanon. These forces were reinforced yesterday with new French units.

Second French Contingent Arrives

NC241837Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Another UN contingent of 300 French paratroops assigned to the navy arrived at 1800 today at Beirut airport. The contingent was transported by two Air France Boeing 747's.

The first contingent of 200 French paratroops, which arrived in Beirut yesterday, moved today to the Tyre area, where they took up positions in assigned places.

Troop Movements, Clash Reported

NC241327Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The vanguards of the UN peace forces have begun taking up positions in the southern area to lay the groundwork for the withdrawal of the combatant forces and the return of the refugees to their villages. Within this framework, a Swedish force has entered from the Israeli border and has taken up position some 50 km south of Tyre. These troops were transported in 20 trucks belonging to the UN disengagement observer force in the Golan. Another 150-man Swedish force has headed for the Jisr al-Khardali area near the Litani River and has taken up position north of Metulla.

The French force which arrived at Beirut airport yesterday proceeded to the border area at 0700 today accompanied by a vehicle of the Lebanese Army, another vehicle of the Palestinian armed struggle and a third vehicle belonging to the United Nations. When the forces reached the Tyre area, an argument occurred between the Palestinians and some armed men. This argument developed into a clash when the residents of Sidon tried to prevent the Palestinians from entering the area. But the dispute was quickly settled and the French forces took up position on the Al-Qasimiyah and Al-Bayyadah bridges on the Tyre road. The second contingent of French forces is scheduled to arrive at Beirut airport this afternoon. This contingent will consist of 280 soldiers. Beirut International Airport today announced that units of the Senegalese forces are scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

BUTRUS, ENVOY TO FRANCE DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION

NC241232Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Within the context of the current efforts to implement the UN Security Council resolution, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today received Lebanese Ambassador to France Dr Najib Sadaqah after Sadaqah's arrival in Beirut. They reviewed current developments and Lebanese-French relations. After the meeting Minister Butrus told our correspondent that the current local and foreign contacts are proceeding normally. He said there is reason for some optimism and it is possible that practical measures may be taken insuring the entry of the UN emergency forces in the south, withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the return of evacuees to their villages if the situation does not deteriorate.

CUBAN ENVOY MEETS WITH BUTRUS, GOES TO IRAQ

FL241843Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Beirut--Today in this capital Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus received Cuban Ambassador to that country Alberto Velasco, who arrived last week and will shortly present his credentials to President Ilyas Sarkis. During the past days he has been received by high Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials. The Cuban diplomat left for Iraq where a delegation headed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca is currently visiting.

SARKIS RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SENEGALESE PRESIDENT

NC241337Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis has received the following cable from Senegalese President Leopold-Sedar Senghor: The new tragedies in Lebanon have caused us much grief. On this occasion, please accept our affection and sympathy. In view of the relations linking our two peoples, the Republic of Senegal has agreed to respond to the UN appeal by sending a contingent to contribute toward achieving security in southern Lebanon. Please accept my esteem and respect.

PLO CHARGES OBSTRUCTION OF AID TO PALESTINIANS

NC240552Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 24 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A spokesman for the PLO in Cairo has accused the head of the Lebanese Government of preventing aid from reaching the Palestinians. It is worth noting that this Palestinian spokesman has deliberately made such an accusation from outside Lebanon.

IRANIAN PLANES REPORTEDLY NOT ALLOWED OVER IRAQ

NC261805Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The crew of an Iranian plane which landed at Beirut International Airport today carrying humanitarian aid to needy people in southern Lebanon said that Iraq forbade four other Iranian planes from flying over Iraq. The plane which arrived today changed its course and flew to Beirut through Turkish airspace.

According to informed sources, Iraq took this step in reply to the decision by the Lebanese authorities and the Arab deterrent forces command banning the entry of materials and men from abroad into Lebanon.

VISAS TO BE REQUIRED OF ALL ENTERING LEBANON

NC270920Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Today the appropriate circles in the Foreign Ministry will notify the Arab and foreign states of the decision adopted by Director of Public Security Faruq Abi al-Lam' prohibiting any person from entering Lebanon without first obtaining an entry visa. Previous regulations allowed citizens of some Arab states to enter Lebanon without a visa. Abi al-Lam' adopted this decision in view of the extraordinary situation in the country.

LEBANESE CHAMBER SPEAKER AL-AS'AD ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN251132Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Damascus at 1145 today. He was received near the Marksmanship Club by People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and several members of the assembly.

Meets Parliamentary Officials

JN251425Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1230 today a meeting was held at Ar-Rawdah Palace in Damascus attended by Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies; Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly; and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

In a statement following the meeting, Kamil al-As'ad said: The ordeal through which Lebanon is passing not only is a Lebanese ordeal but is linked organically to the Arab cause in general and to the Arab destiny in the face of an all-out Israeli challenge in particular. He further said: It is natural, therefore, for consultations to be held with fraternal Syria to confront the situation because Syria has always been a bastion of reliance owing to its situation and effectiveness in exercising national responsibility at this stage in Arab history. He also said that Syria's Al-Asad is representative of the desired and responsible Arab leader. It is not strange, therefore, for Syria to be concerned with what is now happening in Lebanon. Its concern stems not only from the historic and genuine links existing between the two countries, but also from the fact that the explosion which took place in Lebanon has added to the conspiracy, a part of which Israel has succeeded in implementing at this particular time. This creates a responsibility to be shouldered by all the Arabs. At this stage Syria is shouldering its responsibility with sincereity, an awareness of responsibility and loyalty to pan-Arab goals and is working to encircle the Israeli conspiracy on the Arab and international levels.

Received by Al-Asad

JN251647Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] At 1415 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Talks were held on the situation resulting from the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, the latest developments in the situation and the efforts being exerted to achieve a prompt withdrawal of the forces of aggression from southern Lebanon.

Kamil al-As'ad had lunch with President al-Asad. The luncheon was also attended by Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, speaker of the People's Assembly, and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

KHADDAM RECEIVES UN PEACE FORCE COMMANDER SIILASVUO

JN251943Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received at 1700 today Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, commander of the UN peacekeeping forces in the Middle East.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES HUNGARIAN WORKERS PARTY DELEGATION

JN251305Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1130 today the delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party headed by Jeno Fock, member of the Politburo of the party. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, chairman of the Foreign Relations Bureau of the Ba'th Party National Command, and Hungarian Ambassador in Damascus Laszlo Szikra.

Comrade Jeno Fock conveyed a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from Comrade Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party. The conversation at the meeting dealt with the results of the talks held between the Hungarian delegation and the Ba'th Party National Command. The talks were satisfactory. They achieved the objective of strengthening relations between the two parties. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations and means for strengthening these relations, as well as the situation in the Middle East.

TISHRIN EXPOSES ISRAELI DESIGNS ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN270610Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Today's papers comment on the resumption of the alleged peace talks between the Egyptian regime and the racist Zionist entity following the treacherous aggression against southern Lebanon.

In a comment in the "Behind the News" column, the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Israeli Government announced yesterday that it has discussed the peace proposals and considers them a suitable basis for continuing the negotiations with the government of President as-Sadat.

This announcement followed a meeting of the Israeli cabinet to discuss the results of Menahim Begin's latest visit to Washington and his talks with President Carter.

On the same day, the foreign minister of the As-Sadat regime said that in principle his country's government is willing to continue the peace talks with Israel.

The Egyptian regime's announcement of its willingness to continue the peace talks comes at a time when there are repeated assurances that the Israeli forces which entered southern Lebanon will not withdraw and will not heed the UN Security Council resolution. These forces will continue to be stationed all along the border in harmony with the Israeli principle of the need to establish a security belt in southern Lebanon to protect Israel. Moreover, Begin's talks with the American President in fact revolved around this very idea.

The paper adds: Why go far when we can cite open official statements by Israeli leaders? Was it not Weizman, the man who authored the southern Lebanon invasion plan, who said a long time ago that Israel has a commitment in southern Lebanon?

TISHRIN asks: What is this commitment, if it is not creating new realities in the Lebanese arena through the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, which we all know is an old Israeli dream? What does Israel want? It wants the withdrawal of all the Palestinians from southern Lebanon. Even if the Palestinians withdraw, who will guarantee that the Israeli forces will also pull out?

So far, it appears that Israel will become--if it has not already become--a party in the Lebanese equation geographically, militarily and politically. It has its own conditions concerning the situation in the Lebanese arena: Hence the saying that Lebanon has a special status.

The purpose of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is not to establish a security belt, as Israel claims, but to actually occupy the area on the pretext of security. This purpose is betrayed by the resort to modern war technology. Israel wants the Litani, and the occupation of southern Lebanon is a card in the Israeli hand to cancel the Palestinian role in the peace process. This is also an Israeli attempt to involve Syria in some kind of war in order to disrupt the role Syria is playing as the leader of the countries of steadfastness and confrontation which want to foil As-Sadat's conspiracy.

The occupation of southern Lebanon will have important and serious political and military repercussions in the area, because the effect of the occupation will not be confined to Lebanon, although it has taken place on Lebanese territory. The Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon will raise in every Arab home the questions: What are the dimensions of the alliance with the friends? Or to be more precise, where does the role of steadfastness and confrontation begin and end? All questions now center on one thing: Is it not possible for the temporary occupation to become a permanent occupation?

Syria has made it clear right from the beginning that it cannot stand with its hands tied in the face of this aggression. Thus, Syria quickly placed this responsibility before the UN Security Council, because Syria is fully aware that despite all Israel's claims it wants to strike at the Syrian power and to weaken the Syrian role. In its international moves, Syria enjoys the support of friends and worldwide respect.

In another comment entitled "The Role of the As-Sadat Initiative in the U.S.-Israeli Differences," TISHRIN says: It has been observed after Menahim Begin's trip to Washington that the As-Sadat news media have picked on the alleged differences in views between Carter and Begin and magnified every letter, comma and period in the statements talking about these differences. The As-Sadat media have exaggerated these differences to the extent of presenting them as a split between the United States and Israel and the beginning of a fight between Carter and Begin.

The discerning reader cannot possibly miss the point that by this exaggeration the media want to claim that the As-Sadat peace initiative has achieved at least one of its declared objectives; namely, to create a rift between the United States and Israel and neutralize the United States in the Arab-Israeli conflict, if not win it over to the side of the Arabs.

The paper wonders: But how big are these differences actually? What is the effect of these differences on the peace process? The differences in the views of the United States and Israel have not brought anything new concerning the well-known American stand. President Carter's interpretation of Resolution 242 is not new. The Carter administration has announced it on more than one occasion. It does not mean complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. According to previous U.S. interpretations, the resolution means withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

At best, President Carter's statements on the Middle East have called for considering the pre-5 June 1967 boundaries as a basis for discussing the subject of withdrawal from the occupied territory. But at the same time Carter has never concealed his approval of making some adjustments to these boundaries in the interest of Israeli security.

As a matter of fact, he has gone even beyond that by inventing a new theory about legal boundaries and security boundaries to give Israel the excuse to retain its forces in the occupied territory for security reasons, and to recognize the legal boundaires under a peace agreement.

TISHRIN adds: The United States and Israel do not differ on the annexation of Arab territories to Israel; They only differ on the areas of these territories. There is no proof that the United States supports the principle of complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

Therefore, the As-Sadat initiative has not led to any change in the U.S. stand in favor of the legitimate Arab demands. On the contrary, it has consolidated Israel's negative attitude toward peace by enabling it to announce its expansionist territorial designs and to obstruct any real effort to push forward the project of just peace.

AS-SIYASAH: SYRIA TO OPEN GOLAN FOR FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES

NC270904Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 27 March--Quoting diplomatic sources in Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH says today that the Palestinian resistance command has received reassurances from Syria that the Syrian borders in the Golan will be opened for fedayeen operations in the next 2 weeks.

The paper points out that at the Tripoli conference of steadfastness states, Syria made a commitment to open its borders in the Golan for fedayeen action in 6 months. However, the war in southern Lebanon and the pressure put on Syria by the rejection states have led to advancement of the date.

SYRIA SAID TO REJECT SUMMIT WITH LEBANON, PLO

NC261124Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 26 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today says that during the past 2 days Syria rejected an official Lebanese call for a tripartite summit conference to be attended by Syria, Lebanon and the PLO.

The paper adds that Syria made the holding of such a conference conditional on complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. It also says that Syria rejected the call for such a conference because it suspects that the Maronite leadership has a plan which, though ambiguous in some aspects, aims at finding a justification for clashing with the Palestinians and ousting them from Beirut and Sidon and, at a later stage, ousting the Syrians from Lebanon.

Citing reliable political sources, AS-SIYASAH says that Syria has also turned down a Libyan-PDRY offer to protect the sources of the Litani River and provide a military and material cover, so as not to fall into an Israeli trap laid to enable Israel to attack it.

AS-SIYASAH also reveals that it was at the request of Damascus that the Soviet Union did not use its veto right at the Security Council against the dispatch of UN forces to Lebanon. This Syrian request, the paper adds, came as a surprise to the Soviet Union and was met with the disapproval of the oil states.

The paper quotes the same sources as saying that the Syrian leaders promised the PLO delegation which recently visited Damascus and which was hedaed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, that Syria will not clash with the resistance and that the recent decision of the deterrent forces to block reinforcements was in response to heavy international pressure.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM says in a dispatch from Beirut, however, that a high-level Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian meeting will be held soon to lay down new foundations in the wake of the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon.

TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ON ROMANIAN PREMIER'S VISIT

AU201450Y Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 18 Mar 78 p 5 AU

[Text of joint Romanian-Syrian communique on Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu's visit to Syria]

[Text] At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Syria, 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, the prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Manea Manescu paid an official friendship visit to the Arab Republic of Syria from 11 to 17 March.

During the visit, Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Arab Republic of Syria received Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu, with whom he had a friendly talk. On behalf of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian Communist Party [RCP], secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Romanian Prime Minister conveyed a warm and friendly message to the Syrian head of state. On behalf of Comrade Nicolae Ceasuescu and of Comrade Elena Ceausescu, he also conveyed greetings and wishes for personal health and happiness to President Hafiz al-Asad and to Mrs Anisse al-Asad and wishes for prosperity and continuous successes to the friendly Arab Syrian people.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed thanks for the message and asked the Romanian prime minister to convey on his behalf and on behalf of Mrs Anisse al-Asad friendly greetings and wishes for personal health and happiness to Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu and Comrade Elena Ceausescu and wishes for new successes to the friendly Romanian people along the path of progress and prosperity.

The two prime ministers had official talks, which proceeded in an atmosphere of complete understanding, and mutual esteem and respect and at which the two sides briefed each other on the current interests of their countries and examined bilateral relations in detail. They also exchanged views on major current international questions of common interest.

The two government heads expressed satisfaction with the progress made in developing the bilateral relations and stressed the fact that these relations are based on the guidelines and instructions issued by the RCP secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, and by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Secretary General and President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Hafiz al-Asad, and are in accordance with the agreements signed on the occasion of the numerous summit meetings held in Bucharest and Damascus in recent years. They took this opportunity to stress the decisive contribution made by the two heads of state to intensifying and diversifying the relations of close cooperation in all areas between Romania and Syria, in the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

The Romanian and Syrian prime ministers thoroughly examined the stage reached in the carrying into effect of the understandings of economic collaboration concluded between the two states, noting with satisfaction the implementation of important programmes and projects of industrial, agricultural, technical, scientific cooperation and of cadre training, as well as the positive course of commercial exchanges. All these can greatly contribute to the harmonious development of the two countries' economies, and to the fulfillment of the tasks envisaged in the 5-year plans in effect in Romania and Syria.

In view of the importance of the projects in progress, the two government heads highlighted the importance of completing them on schedule, through joint and coordinated efforts by both sides.

Following an analysis of the progress of the projects, the two prime ministers established a series of joint actions and measures meant to lead to the acceleration of the projects now underway in industrial and agricultural and production and in technical and scientific cooperation. Special attention was paid to the work on important Romanian-Syrian economic cooperation projects: the Banias Refinery, the Homs Triple-Superphosphates Plant, the cement mill of Ash-shaykh Sa'id and the irrigation sites on the banks of the Euphrates. The two prime ministers positively assessed the results of the session of the Romanian-Syrian Joint Government Commission of Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation recently held in Damascus.

During the visit, the two prime ministers signed a protocol on developing economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation, and commercial exchanges between the two countries.

Prime Minister Manea Manescu and 'Abd ar-Rahmand Khulayfawi assessed that profound changes are rapidly occurring in international life in favor of the progressive, anti-imperialist and anticolonialist forces, of the forces of democracy and socialism. The unshakable will of the people on all continents to independently build their future in concordance with their fundamental rights and interests and to combat and eliminate any manifestation of the policy of domination and oppression is being strongly asserted. The two prime ministers highlighted the contribution of the socialist countries, of the developing countries and of the nonalined states to the examination and settlement of the major international issues.

The two prime ministers emphasized on this occasion, too, that the maintenance of the tense situation in the Middle East following Israel's occupation of the Arab territories since 1967, of its failure to recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the continuation of the illegal practices of the Israelis in the occupied territories to carry out their demographic, cultural and historical changes, and especially, the setting up of settlements on these territories, spell great danger not only for the countries of the region but also for the peace and security of the world.

The two heads of government reaffirmed the consistent stand of their countries, according to which a peaceful, all-round, just and durable settlement in the Middle East cannot be reached except on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, of recognizing the national, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to return to their homes, to setting up an independent state, as well as on the basis of fulfilling the pertinent resolutions of the UN organizations.

The two prime minsters expressed the resolve of their countries to continue the efforts for the realization of such an all-round, just and durable settlement in the Middle East. In this context they reaffirmed their conviction that the Palestinian question is in the center of the conflict in the region and that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two heads of government reaffirmed the need for continuing efforts on an international plane for engineering a new world economic order, founded on balanced and equitable economic relations between the developed and developing countries which would lead to the narrowing down and bridging of the gaps between them. It was mentioned that the developing countries have suffered for a long time because their natural resources have been exploited and their sovereignty over these resources has not been acknowledge and also because of the unjust policy of fixing prices for raw materials.

In this context, the two prime ministers called for the consolidation of the unity of action and for the solidarity of the developing countries, of the nonalined countries, and of all progressive forces to create a better and more just world.

The sides reaffirmed the need for definitively liquidating the remnants of colonialism and racism in Africa and emphasized that their countries fully support the just fight of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa to abolish racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid, for national freedom and independence.

The two prime ministers called for the adoption of firm measures that would lead to the peoples' liberation from the burden of armaments and stressed the importance of the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

Stressing the importance of expanding bilateral contacts and talks at all the levels, the two sides expressed the view that the Romanian prime minister's visit to the Syrian Arab Republic constitutes a fresh contribution to developing and diversifying the relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries and people.

During his stay in Syria, the Romanian prime minister and his aides toured economic and sociocultural units. They were very warmly welcomed everywhere as an expression of the deep ties of fruitful cooperation and feelings of mutual friendship and esteem between the two countries and peoples.

The Romanian prime minister invited the Syrian prime minister to pay an official visit of friendship to Romania. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date of the visit is to be established subsequently.

TANJUG: TITO SENDS MESSAGE TO AL-ASAD THROUGH ENVOY

LD261824v Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1434 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus--Abd al-Halim Khadddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, today received Yugoslav Ambassador Dmitar Janevski. Ambassador Janevski transmitted a verbal message by the President of the Republic Josip Broz Tito for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE ADDRESSES WORKERS UNION CONGRESS

LD2618S4Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Speech by Algerian President Houari Boumediene at the opening of the Fifth Congress of the General Union of Algerian Workers in Algiers on 25 March 1978--recorded]

[Excerpts] This conference falls within the march begun with the charter and which will end with the holding of the FLN conference. [applause] It is one of a series of conferences to be held with the sole purpose of establishing a strong basis for the socialist revolution.

Today we are attending the fifth conference of the workers. It will be followed by the peasants conference, by the veterans conference, by the youth conference and by the women's confederation conference--after this series of conferences by the country's mass organizations, the FLN will hold its national conference which will be the crowning stage in the country's current development and will open the way for a new era.

Many parties in power have become petrified and died, and even have faded into oblivion because they could not secure for themselves the conditions for success. Liberalism in its Western meaning has never been and will never be suitable for our developing society nor for the societies of the Third World. Liberalism is only a means to preoccupy the people and to divide the true forces in the societies of the Third World. Liberalism aims to provide the opportunity, means and freedom to the rulers to pit one section against another, while things and conditions remain as they are.

Hence, the option open to the Algerian revolution in this regard is clear and has become still clearer, particularly following the endorsement of the charter. It is not sufficient for us to say we have a charter or we have a constitution or that we have given the country a national assembly. What is more important is that we must struggle within the framework of these institutions so that we may build and deepen further the concepts and thus insure continuity and prosperity for the socialist revolution in the future. The future of our children lies in the application of socialism, whatever the difficulties, the problems and the obstacles, for we can never accept the flagrant differences between classes. If the charter has not dealt with the question of class-conflict, clashes of interests between the classes are there. There are clashes of interests that will continue as long as clear differences continue among the classes. The charter has not dealt with this issue. This was done in response to the aspirations of our people. The people did not want to involve themselves in class conflict. But let us beware: There are conflicts of interests.

We all must struggle, from the smallest worker in the factory, to the smallest laborer on the farm, to the most senior official--we must fight vigilantly and responsibly to gradually do away with these differences that afflict Algerian society. Some people today do not approve of what the Algerian revolution has done, particularly those on our east and on our west. We are not saying this to criticize them but to analyze matters. We ask them: What have you done for the peasants?

Have you built villages for them? Have you extended electricity to them? Have you built schools on remote mountains as in the case of Algeria today? Have you abolished taxes for the peasants?

There is no room for comparison at all between what is happening in Algeria and what is happening in the countries around Algeria. There is no room for comparison because Algeria has made an irrevocable basic choice: the peoples of the Mahreb. We not only will always be on the side of the Algerian people but will always be on the side of the peoples of the Arab Maghreb. We will always be with the peasant in the Arab Maghreb and also with the worker in the Arab Maghreb, even if we note that every now and then nationalism, narrow nationalism, prevails over the true horizons that should reign over this area, the area of the Arab Maghreb.

We have taken measures to improve the wages of all workers. On the occasion of this fifth conference of the workers, we declare that we will raise the minimum guaranteed level of wages from 600 to about 800 dinars. [applause]

I wish this fifth conference all success. This is because the success of these mass conferences will help to a large extent in the success of the forthcoming national conference of the party. As the leadership we will work continuously to preserve this atmosphere. We will work for total mobilization to achieve all the objectives we seek, particularly in the present stage, which is a difficult one. It is an extremely difficult stage through which the Arab homeland is going and through which our area is passing, our Arab Maghreb area.

This stage demands vigilance by all workers. This stage demands alertness from all the basic forces of the revolution. We must pass this stage and pass it with all success.

What is taking place in the Arab east is very painful. We were told that the Arabs triumphed in 1973. Then suddenly and most astonishingly those who triumphed in the battle were unfortunately the ones to go to Palestine. I say Palestine to avoid saying Israel. [applause] They were the ones to go to Palestine or to Israel, as they call it, to sell Palestine.

We have no personal problems with the Egyptian president. Since he spoke on my behalf on many occasions, saying that I had told him so and so, then I say that all that was carried in his papers was true. But have I told him to go to Israel? He did not say anything of the sort. [applause] He did not say this in his numerous statements which have been disseminated all over the world. We did not say this.

We did not say this because we are not capitulationists. We are sons of a revolution. [applause] We are sons of an Arab revolution that has triumphed, and triumphed by the force of arms. [applause] We are members of a generation which has never capitulated. Our generation has experienced imperialism, oppression, torture, homelessness and starvation--but it has never capitulated and continues to say: We are Arabs and Moslems, and Algerian territory will remain an Arab territory and a Moslem territory. [applause] This is what history records. This is our caliber. We are like a solid rock. When we believe that we are on the right we never weaken or deviate and never capitulate. The problems of the people cannot be measured by 20 or 30 years. Yet our brothers in the east got tired after 30 years.

They became tired and said they were exhausted and said we must hand our affairs to the devil and to the commander--who is the one ruling the region now? Which is the big power in the east? We judge things as they are and say it is Israel.

Yes, after 30 years, they said we must surrender and capitulate as though brothers, the problems of peoples and historic issues can be measured by a year or 20 or 30 or 50 years.

Yes, we do not approve of this policy. We have told President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat in all fraternity--and he has personally declared this on behalf of the Egyptian people--that you, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, when you differ with the Palestinians, we will differ with you. [applause] This is what has actually taken place. Has President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat differed with the Palestinians or has he not? Yes, he has. [applause]

Brothers, you have spoken in one voice, which is the voice of the Algerian people, that President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has differed with the Palestinians. This is because when he went to occupied Jerusalem and by so doing he has recognized that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel--an act which even the Americans have not done yet. When he went to occupied Palestine he went to retrieve his own territory, to retrieve Sinai and to offer final recognition. The funny but sad thing is that he tried to offer recognition in the name of the Arabs and in the name of the Palestinians that this land they had treaded, whose air they had breathed and which they had been living in until a short while ago, is no longer the land of their forefathers and their forefathers before them.

This is the difference that separates us today from the policy pursued by President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. We have no personal differences with him. Under no circumstances do we want to further complicate the complex Arab conditions. Indeed, we have no animosity against the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people, like the other Arab peoplee, have supported the Algerian people with their hearts. But to say that had it not been for the stand of that people or this people Algeria would have never achieved independence is false. It is a flagrant and gross error. [applause] This is a distortion of history.

Algeria has played its role in the major Arab battle. Algeria, the triumphant revolution, did not fight for a year or 15 days [words indistinct]. We differ with our brothers in the east, brothers because of historical reasons. If we were not to differ with them on this problem, the problem of all Arabs, then we would be committing a betrayal of a cause. It would be a betrayal of the Palestinian people who have been moved from one stage of homelessness to another state of homelessness and from one massacre to another massacre.

They tell us that 99 percent of the solution to the question lies in the hands of one particular state. I am not blaming the United States or anybody else. The United States has its own strategic interests in the area. It defends and works to preserve and safeguard its interests. But I blame those who could not deal with these issues of destiny, with the strong will and firm determination it deserves.

As things stand today, Israel occupies Sinai and other parts and is playing the role of a policeman in the area. It [words indistinct] the Palestinians, bombs, kills and slaughters, but the friends of the country which hold the solution or 99 percent of the solution remained idle. Yes, they remained idle. The Palestinians had no alternative but to fight [words indistinct].

It may be said that we only talk. But true we have talked. However, had we been adjoining Palestine, what has happened would not have happened. [applause] No, it would not have happened. [words indistinct] Begin has become a friend while the brothers and the friends have become enemies. [passage indistinct] May our tongue be cut if you, As-Sadat, wish to sign the document of disgrace and capitulation with your friend Begin. Then proceed and sign that document, and let history decide who was in the right, we or you.

The differences then are not personal. We have not differed, will not differ with the Egyptian people. We never differed in the past, for personal reasons, with the Egyptian leadership, whether in the days of President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, God have mercy on his soul [applause], may God bless his soul a thousand times [applause], or in the days of President as-Sadat. But the distortion of words, the resorting to fallacies and the rigging of documents in these critical historical days are of no use.

Hence Algeria's attitude with regard to the front of steadfastness. [applause] Even if the number of states in the front of steadfastness is small, by joining the front we have clarified our position toward the issue. The important thing is not the number but whether the position we have adopted is right or not. We, brothers, believe it is a right one, for we have stood by the Palestinian people. [applause] We have stood by the Palestinian people, and we will continue to be on their side.

The question is not one of leadership-seeking. It is not one of the creation of axes or that Algeria wants to create an axis by establishing the front of steadfastness to deal with the problems of the area. We can tackle the problems of the area as we did in the past. Today, as we support the Saharan people, we work for the establishment of the right. We not only defend national interests but we defend the weak, the wronged and the ones made homeless. We want to prevent the massacre on the borders of Lebanon.

Thus the question is not one of the creation of axes. It is one of siding with a just and clear cause. President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has quarrelled with the Palestinian revolution and so we quarrel with him. We will continue to do so until he or rather the Egyptian leadership returns to the Arab ranks. [applause]

If, brother, we have to talk about this matter, it is to clarify our position. There are some who have shed their masks, and it is said that the West has hailed for us, pardon the expression, and said a brave man and a great leader has risen from among you to dare tell the invaders you are friends. Some people appreciate their responsibilities. But there are some, unfortunately, who must be described as silent and who have been keeping silent. But the people know them. Their silence has gone on for some time. We believe that if silence continues for long about a situation it signifies approval. The policy that is being kept silent about is an extremely grave one, particularly since this grave policy, which aims at humiliating the Arabs and recolonizing them, is supported by a so-called moderate oil policy, which actually serves the interests of the West and the industrialized countries in the first place. [words indistinct]

Algeria has attended the Tripoli conference and played host for the Arab front of steadfastness in Algiers and attended the Damascus meeting. It did so to manifest once more its sound, firm and permanent line, which aims at supporting the Palestinian revolution and people in the present big ordeal.

I am sorry to have to talk so much about this, but I have no alternative. I do not like to talk about heads of states. I know it is the fashion now among the Third World heads of state to have altercations. If one president says something, within a week altercations follow. I believe these things bring no honor. It is better for the head of state to respect himself and appreciate his responsibilities.

One final time I wish to affirm that we have no personal rancor against either the Egyptian president or the Egyptian leadership. We bear no grudge toward the Egyptian people, the fraternal Egyptian people, for whom we hold all respect and admiration. We have quarrelled with President as-Sadat only when he quarrelled with the Palestinian revolution. Here ends my speech. God's peace be with you. [applause]

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES AGRICULTURE EXHIBITION

LD260738Y Tripoli JANA in English 1859 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Benghazi, March 25, JANA--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the First of September Revolution, participated in the great popular ceremony which was held at Mleitania region, Al-Jabal al-Akhdar, on the occasion of distributing one thousand and eleven farm ownership deeds to the citizens in that area.

The ceremony was attended by Mr 'Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim, first vice president of Sudan; Col Djine Mamari, deputy chairman of the Higher Military Council of Chad; Maj Moumouni Gar Mousa, [as received] Niger's foreign minister; Kokoni Wadi, head of Chad Liberation Front, FROLINAT; secretaries; ambassadors to the Jamahiriyah; political and popular leaderships in the area and a large number of people. Upon arrival of the leader, the masses received him with the slogans "Long live the Great First of September Revolution...Long live its leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi."

The leader of the revolution made his way with difficulty amidst crowds which had gathered there since the morning, repeating slogans which asserted continuity of the revolution for more achievements for the benefit of the Libyan people, the Arab nation and the Third World.

Addressing the masses, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi welcomed guests, especially those from sisterly and friendly states, including the vice president of Sudan, deputy chairman of the Higher Military Council in Chad, the foreign minister of Niger, head of the Chad Liberation Front and heads of diplomatic corps in the Jamahiriyah.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi congratulated farmers who were given new farms, tractors and herds of sheep. He said "these farmers have now been given preliminary ownership of these farms because they will have to pass a probationary period. A farmer who passes will be given the final ownership deed. However, a farmer who fails and if it is found out that he has other interests and proves not to be a true farmer, the farm will be taken back from him and given to another true farmer.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added: "A feudalist or capitalist under the former regime may have been given a farm or some machines now. Therefore you must understand that there will be further investigation and checking. He who is not a true farmer will not lay his hand on an inch of land. Arable land will be taken away from him and given to a real farmer."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi further explained:

"Before the revolution this area was a barren desert. In addition to desert there was treason. One of the former prime ministers who was a feudalist seized seven thousand hectares of this land which is now being distributed to you. Every farmer now owns a farm there."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi asked: "Why should one person own seven thousand hectares unjustifiably?" And answered "because he had been a prime minister in the expelled regime." Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "These were the affairs of the former regime which deserved revolution. A prime minister under that regime would take everything for himself rather than serve the people."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed the situation in the past regime deserved revolution so that the Libyan people would not turn into a herd of sheep.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi indicated that such exercises were exemplary of the deeds of the former regime. He confirmed that such situations, whether in the past or in the future, would not be tolerated. They will be revolted against by the people who [words indistinct] again as they had won on the same day eight years ago.

He said, everyone should understand that the existence of such example is an exploitationist existence which must be assaulted and eliminated. If any traces of exploitation by such persons who [words indistinct] exercise it should be discovered then it should be ended at once by a revolutionary act. He asserted the need for equality among citizens. Every citizen must receive his rights regardless of his position under the past regime.

"If the hold [words indistinct] a farmer who could run a farm, then he like any other citizen will be given a farm, a house, if needed, a tractor and sixty sheep."

The leader of the revolution explained:

"The age of positions has now expired, and the class society has now expired as well. There is no one left except the people. The people are the (?masters) [word indistinct] "the Libyans alone are the master people."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi explained: "No one will be able to take for himself anything simply because he comes from the so and so family. We no longer recognize such status or the prestige arising from privileges granted during the days of Italian or Turkish occupation. We only recognize the working people, who has a genuine interest in the revolution and who owns the land."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi assured that it was high time that the Libyan people, who had fought for the land and who had suffered with Omar al-Mukhtar and offered convoys of martyrs for the freedom of his land, was given its right in full. "The people should have the farm, the modern house, the sheep and have the decisive word." "This is the revolution.

It is freedom for the Libyan people, people's authority, farm, house, tractor, sheep, modern living to the people. So long as the revolution stays so then its army is the whole people and its intelligence is the whole people and its leaders are the whole people and its revolutionary forces.

"Anyone wanting to commit aggression against Libyan soil has to understand that he won't be facing a deprived, oppressed, chained or enslaved people. He won't be facing a people dominated by a minority, as it was the case in the former regime and as it is still the case with most countries. Such an aggressor must understand that he would be facing a people which rules itself and therefore it won't be easy."

The leader of the revolution asserted: "Our celebrations are not mockery celebrations of the birth of a king of an [word indistinct] occasion. They are celebrations for sustaining liberty on the Libyan soil. Every celebration sustains the political and economic freedom on the Libyan soil and confirms victory of the Libyans over the elements of oppression imposed upon them by imperialism and its puppet regimes."

The leader of the revolution added: "Unless celebrations are like that, they become meaningless and noisy mockeries. Leaders of the revolution are not those who led the revolution on 1st September 1969, but they include each and every project supervisor, executive body, chairman of land reclamation and reform. Those are leaders of the green revolution and therefore the revolution does not have only one leader or a junta. Likewise, its soldiers are not the soldiers who had actually carried it out on 1st, September 1969, but they are all members of the great Libyan people. Its aims are not the rifles and the cannons as it was the case in 1969, but they are the tractors and ploughs. Its air forces is not the fightery bomber airforce but the agricultural seeding airplanes which are used in these farms." Colonel al-Qadhdhafi confirmed: "If revolution involves only a tank, an airplane, a cannon, a soldier and an officer, it becomes a coup d'etat. And this is the problem of political movements in the Arab native-land. If, however, it adds agricultural airplanes to war planes, tractors to tanks and the harvester to the rifle, the fighting worker and peasant to the regular soldier, only then can we say that we have a true revolution. This is what is happening on the Libyan soil."

"This project for instance is one of Al-Jabel al-Akhdar projects. It involves an army that does not consist of artillery and armor regiments, but it consists of masses of peasants who today became owners of the projects. This is the real army which can not be defeated because the soldier in this case owns the farm, the house, the tractor and the herd of sheep. This is the soldier to gain victory or die for his gains."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi explained that thus the Libyan people, in whole, will transform into an unbeatable army for it has strength and faith and will defend to the end what it owns. He said: "As to the deprived peoples whose gains had been stolen, they have nothing to fight for and therefore they can be defeated easily." In this connection the leader of the revolution referred to the easy conquest by the Zionist enemy of some peoples and their surrender at the time they actually outnumber the Zionist. "The reason," he explained, "is that they have nothing to defend." He asked: "Will these peoples defend poverty and deprivation? Will they defend backwardness and the interests of the pashas and the rulers who are the same as the prime minister of the former regime who had seized the land for himself and his children?"

"For these reasons," he explained, "these peoples used to surrender and lose." The leader of the revolution declared further that what is going on in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is unmatched. "There isn't a country in the world which builds a house and gives it free to the farmer who also pays only 25 percent of the price of the farm which is reclaimed and reformed by the state. Again he also gets a tractor and a herd of sheep." The leader of the revolution added:

"No farmer in the world is allowed all these chances. Therefore with this achievement, viz, one farm every three days, we challenge the world to do better. This confirms the fact that on the Libyan soil there is a real revolution. It is not a revolution which only appears on the radio and in the press." The leader of the revolution confirmed that on the soil of the Jamahiriyah there are achievements and that the revolution was not in the form of words of the news bulletins, newspapers and leaflets, but in the form of new houses, farms, grazing lands, factories, dams, schools, hospitals, roads airports and harbors."

The leader of the revolution spoke finally of the underhanded allegations that the Jamahiriyah sustains international terrorism, and said:

"We must say to the foolish, naive and ignorants in America: Come here and see what goes on on the soil of the Jamahiriyah. If transformation of desert into green land is considered terrorism, then terrorism is good. Come and see the new houses, farms, mills, dams being built on this land."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi referred to America's puppets who praise and repeat what their American master says, that the Jamahiriyah is an arsenal, and said: "Yes we actually own these arms because they also own atomic bombs and intercontinental missiles."

The leader of the revolution explained that we did not only own modern airplanes and tanks and wanted to manufacture arms locally, but the Jamahiriyah was also the base of good and work. He pointed out that the modern tractors in the new farms of Al-Jabel al-Akhdar project were not tanks or armored vehicles. He also invited the American journalists to come along and find out for themselves who was doing good, we or the Americans? And who was making tools of destruction? Who worked for the good of the world and who worked against it?

He explained that doing good is not wanted nowadays and is being resisted. Good must be projected by force. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added, "Unless they are protected, tractors, agricultural planes, new houses and liberty may go with the wind. Therefore, anyone training on how to operate a tractor must also learn how to operate a tank to defend it. Anyone who lives in a new house must learn to live in a trench to defend it. Any one who trains to fly an agrarian airplane must learn to fly a bomber to fight the enemies."

At the end of his address Colonel al-Qadhdhafi confirmed clarity of our course and stance. He said: "In the same amount as we reform and reclaim land we prepare for its defense, and in the same amount as we produce in terms of industry, agriculture, construction, we produce in terms military training and military conscription for defense of our revolutionary gains.

EMBASSY DENIES U.S. OFFICIAL SAID BEGIN MUST BE REPLACED

NC251240Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Israel David Hitchcock has said that there is no truth to the report, published by the newspaper 'AL HAMISHMAR yesterday that U.S. Charge d'Affaires Richard Viets said that the prime minister must be replaced. The U.S. spokesman said that no one in the embassy here has said such things. Viets has not seen any Knesset member for some time.

MAFDAL SEEKS KNESSET DISCUSSION OF U.S. OFFICIAL'S 'REMARKS'

TA251911Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Mar 78 TA

[Text] MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir of the MAFDAL submitted an urgent motion for the agenda this evening on the serious intervention, as he put it, of U.S. officials in Israeli domestic issues. He explained that there is no doubt that all factions in the Knesset, irrespective of their political views, deplore foreign intervention.

MK Ben-Me'ir's motion refers to the report that a senior U.S. personality told an Israeli personality that there is a need to replace the prime minister in order to bring peace to the Middle East.

DAVAR SEEKS MOTIVE FOR 'REVEALING' U.S. ANTI-BEGIN REMARKS

TA261509Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 78 p 5 TA

[Editor-in-Chief Hanna Zemer commentary]

[Excerpts] A "report" broadcast Thursday evening on the radio newsreel and later on the evening news program on television informed us that a senior U.S. personality had hinted to a senior Israeli personality that the prime minister is not a good helmsman for the Israeli vessel. The cabinet itself is altogether okay--it is just that another one of its members has to be put at the head.

Who planted the report in the state media, and what was his objective? There are three possibilities:

The first possibility is that the report was planted by one of Begin's associates so as to precede the cure to the ailment: If the Americans desire to remove Begin, then anyone who opposes his leadership is as good as an American agent.

This method is not very original. It is reminiscent of the "Zinoviev letter," as well as of intrigues in which agents of one country strike at the embassy of a second country on the territory of a third country in order to create a conflict between the second and the third. In the long run, however, these stratagems prove to be ineffective and, if indeed one of Begin's associates planted the report, he did him a disservice.

A second possibility is that the culprit is not one of Begin's associates, but the crony of another cabinet member who wishes to enhance his prospects. That is to say: The policy is okay, there is no need to replace the cabinet, only one man has to be removed and everything will be all right, a crisis with the United States will be avoided and so on.

The third possibility is that the one who planted the report was the associate of a minister who did not seek to advance himself but wished to do harm to another minister by shifting the suspicion of having planted the report to him. There are now a number of ministers in the cabinet who would be willing to dunk 'Ezer Weizman in a tub full of water--poisoned, prefereably--and the exercise may have been staged against him.

Once we know who the man was who planted the report we shall know what his political objectives were. I said "planted." Let there be no mistake, this was no leaking of information. One can leak out only something that has happened, whereas this--in any case, the hysterical way it was released to the public--is a figment of a distorted imagination. This distorted thinking creates an entirely superfluous residue in the already quite murky relations between Israel and the U.S. administration--an administration with which we have a debate but which is not a hostile administration--it is our main sustenance. By the way, if the administration wished to overthrow Begin it would use more efficient methods to achieve that end. A few quite delicate pressures on the part of the United States can drive this cabinet into a real crisis.

In short, the true story here is not who the senior American who said something about Begin was, but who the senior Israeli was who created this artificial minicrisis; who was the man who wanted to drag us into anti-American hysterics? It may have been simply some foolish spokesman who acted on his own. But were it not politically propitious, the story wouldn't be rolling with such snowballing reactions. One coalition member has already proposed that the issue be discussed in the Knesset....

For the sake of public ecology, the government must not limit itself to only find out who the man was, which can easily be done. For the sake of a cleaner atmosphere, and to remove suspicions from any really high-ranking places, the public must also be informed of who composed the electronic Zinoviev letter.

BEGIN TO PUSH TALKS WITH CAIRO AFTER U.S. VISIT

TA261345 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Text] The government intends to embark on an urgent new effort to resume the direct negotiations with Egypt. Informed sources close to Premier Menahem Begin predicted that this would be the practical response of the cabinet to the lack of progress achieved at the Begin-Carter talks in Washington last week.

Begin is due to respond in a day or two to President as-Sadat of Egypt's last letter to him--as the premier himself noted in his airport arrival statement on Friday. The informed sources said Begin would try in his letter and through other means to get the direct talks with Egypt started again.

The sources indicated that Begin would now be much more flexible regarding the format and venue of such talks. He would no longer insist that if the military negotiations resume in Cairo again, there must be parallel political talks in Jerusalem. He would probably agree to any talks, anywhere, to demonstrate that the peace process is not dead.

These sources drew encouragement from Egypt's reaction yesterday to the Begin-Carter rift. They pointed out that Egypt had pointedly asserted that the peace process would still go on.

Egypt's current moderation has been interpreted by many observers as expressing its gratification over the Begin-Carter dispute. By proclaiming that it is ready to continue the peacemaking, Egypt is, in the eyes of many observers, seeking to induce further American pressure on Israel.

The informed sources close to Begin, however, while not discounting this view, stress that Egypt could, had it wished, have conveniently broken off all contact at this nadir of Israeli fortunes in the U.S. But Cairo's relatively moderate reaction, these sources say, both to Israel's incursion into south Lebanon, and to Begin's U.S. visit, point unmistakably to its desire to continue the peace process.

In fact, these sources say, As-Sadat could perhaps argue that through his peace initiative the U.S. has been brought to greater "neutrality" in the Mideast conflict--and it is now for each individual Arab confrontation state to cash in on that situation and pursue its own negotiations with Israel. As-Sadat himself, accordingly, might perhaps see the moment ripe for proceeding with his own negotiations with Israel on the Sinai, reaching if not full peace then at least an agreement that could be billed as the first stage of a comprehensive peace agreement.

While the sources posing this theory concede that it's "optimistic," it seems that the government will now want to actively test it--if only because Begin is keenly aware that Israel must take the initiative in order to improve its political position.

The sources close to the premier assert confidently that there is no real threat from within to his tenure or authority. They tend to shrug off the unrest in the DMC as pertaining only to the dovish fringe of that party. And they see Defence Minister Weizman's call for a "national peace government" as a "public relations ploy that backfired" rather than as a major challenge to the premier.

They indicate, though, that Begin was far from happy with Weizman's move.

CABINET CONCLUDES 5-HOUR SESSION IN JERUSALEM

Statement Issued

NC261240Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have just heard that the cabinet has finished its crucial meeting in Jerusalem. Over now to David Appel at the prime minister's office:

Indeed, it was. The cabinet meeting has finished after some 5 hours--5 hours which follow a very dramatic week in Israel's political history; a week during which very, very severe conversations took place between Israel's Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Carter, and the latest statements we have, of course, heard.

To report the cabinet position, here is Arye Na'or, the government secretary:

The cabinet unanimously approved the report of the prime minister and the foreign minister who represented the Israeli position in the talks with President Carter.

The Government of Israel restates its commitment to the achievement of a total and complete [brief break in transmission] by the government as a fair basis for the continuation of the negotiations. The prime minister will address the Knesset this week.

[Apel] So much for the bare statement from [brief break in transmission] that Israel is interested in the peace negotiations and will do everthing it can to carry that out. There was, of course, reference to the news report that an anonymous U.S. personally had called for the resignation and replacement of Prime Minister Begin. The cabinet referred to this, but, I am told by Na'or, rejected it totally. So much from the prime minister's office. This is David Apel returning you to the studio.

Correspondent Reports

TA262054Y Jersualem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet today in its weekly session, endorsed the reports by the prime minister and the foreign minister on their trip to the United States and their meetings with President Carter. At the end of the session a statement was issued saying that the cabinet reemphasizes that its aim is a full and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The cabinet today considers Israel's peace program, as it was presented by the cabinet and passed by the Knesset, to be a fair basis for negotiations with the Arab countries. The defense minister and the chief of staff reviewed developments in southern Lebanon at the session. Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports on today's cabinet session:

The text of the cabinet statement was most moderate. The Cabinet of Israel does not reject the peace program proposed by the United States. The statement's formulation tends toward the positive: an aim at peace and an emphasis that Israel's program is a fair basis for negotiations, as President Carter put it after the program was presented to him for the first time by the prime minister in December 1977.

Israel cannot and does not need, the cabinet thinks, to give a commitment in advance for a withdrawal, as the United States is demanding, before the negotiations.

With regard to the U.S. proposal for holding a referendum in Judaea and Samaria, the cabinet says that such a referendum would, under pressure from the terrorist organization, lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and this contradicts the U.S. position, which is opposed to the establishment of such a state.

During today's debate severe expressions were heard against remarks attributed to a senior U.S. personality about the need to replace the prime minister and also against opposition speakers who attack the cabinet. Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich attacked MK Abba Eban for an interview he gave and which was broadcast yesterday on a New York television station. In that interview Eban gave the impression that there is a split in Israel. This sprang from lack of loyalty to the country, Mr Ehrlich said.

Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir called for national solidarity following the prime minister's difficult trip to the United States and his standing up to pressures.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said that the peace program is a good one. He supports it and he is sure that a way will be found to resume the political initiative for negotiations with Egypt.

As for the next steps, the cabinet, it was said, is prepared for any action and will take initiatives in order to advance the resumption of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The first concrete step will be the letter of reply from the prime minister to President as-Sadat's letter and this will be sent this week.

In it Mr Begin will call on the president of Egypt to return to direct negotiations. Will Israel initiate personal meetings between the leaders of the two countries? We did not succeed in getting any confirmation of this.

The cabinet statement was unanimously approved. The DMC ministers voted in favor. According to them, the prime minister took with him to Washington a supplement to Israel's statement of intentions in which flexibility is expressed toward Security Council Resolution 242 and a withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. President Carter also rejected this proposal.

Israel's official position will be expressed this week by the prime minister in a political statement from the Knesset podium.

MAPAM SAYS ALINEMENT MUST NOT JOIN CABINET

TA262121Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The MAPAM grouping says that the Alinement must be the alternative to the cabinet and so it cannot join the Likud cabinet. In MAPAM's view, the political situation which has been created demands the formation of a cabinet which will agree that Resolution 242 also applies to Judaea and Samaria and will declare its willingness to solve the Palestinian problem in a Jordanian-Palestinian framework.

MAPAM also thinks that all settlement activity must be stopped during the period of negotiations.

LABOR PARTY CONCLUDES DEBATE ON BEGIN POLICY

TA262118Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, concluded the political debate held by his party's center by announcing that the Knesset faction would decide whether to express no confidence in the cabinet only after it had heard a detailed report on the Washington talks. It had been proved, according to him, that the Labor Party platform was standing up to the test and could serve as an alternative which would permit the continuation of the political negotiations.

In the Labor Party center debate Shim'on Peres and Abba Eban criticized the cabinet's policy severely. Peres said that the cabinet's peace program had turned out to lack credibility and the cabinet had failed in what it had proposed in Sinai and what it had not proposed in Judaea and Samaria. Abba Eban said that the cabinet had not achieved even one of the goals which had faced it since As-Sadat's visit. He claimed that they were trying to present the criticism of the failure of the cabinet's program as an unpatriotic act.

Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that the political forum of the Labor Party determined its positions on the upcoming Knesset debate. The Labor Party regards President Carter's and President as-Sadat's Aswan text as a possible way to advance the negotiations if it is formulated into a declaration of intentions. It will oppose the establishment of new footholds in Sinai and the idea of a referendum in Judaea and Samaria. The Labor Party will insist on the fact that UN Resolution 242 applies to Judaea and Samaria and will demand that the IDF should continue to act in Judae and Samaria.

MINISTER BURG CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF CABINET POSITIONS

TA262032Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The MAFDAL leadership positioned itself this evening at the right hand of the cabinet in support of its latest political moves. Minister of the Interior Dr Yosef Burg hinted in his remarks that there was a link between the U S. pressure and statements by cabinet ministers. Our correspondent on party affairs, Sara Frankel, spoke with Dr Burg:

Dr Burg revealed in his remarks, in support of the latest military operation, that, following the IDF operation in southern Lebanon, on discovering the extensive system of fortifications, it emerged that there was a military deployment in the north which went beyond lone attacks by terrorists.

With respect to the comprehensive political move, Dr Burg calls the Israeli proposals kind and generous. The moves were made in the hope that there would be peace and, accordingly, we must not lessen the value of the Israeli move by self-criticism. How, then, does Dr Burg evaluate the developments today, when the cabinet, in its session, did not make any operative decision? [begin recording]

[Burg] It appears to me that the Americans do not really appreciate that the question of the interpretations of UN Resolution 242 and the conclusions of eventual withdrawal is a question of life or death for us and we must not get into a panic over the fact that there is no understanding [for our position] today. It appears to me that, with suitable publicity, we can explain the necessity and significance of secure borders, with all that involves.

[Frankel] In your remarks to the leadership, you hinted at the fact that what was said in Washington in English in fact had roots in Hebrew here in Israel. Did you mean the interpretation of 242?

[Answer] I meant not necessarily the interpretation, but also the different interpretations. I meant the arena which is being created here, sometimes by a large party, sometimes by a medium-sized party, sometimes by a party of one or two people or one woman. Such an atmosphere and the statements here have, of course, an echo which falls on very attentive ears and there is no argument about the fact that the international echo of what happens in the cabinet carries weight and so I hope that in the future--and this will find expression this week in the voting in tne Knesset as well--the statements of cabinet members, although they may contain different emphases, reflect different temperaments, will be united in quality, in content and in objective.

[Question] That is, you did not only mean what is being said in the opposition, but what these or those ministers in the cabinet are saying?

[Answer] In sum, I said a long time ago that many troubles come from statements, but I assume that the vote of confidence, if it occurs in the Knesset this week, will also give a reply to questions of this type. In my view, our demand is so justified that it is inconceivable that it will not also be heard in Washington. [end recording]

GUR WEIGHS CONDUCT, LESSONS OF LEBANON OPERATION

TA251415Y Jersualem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 24 Mar 78 TA

[Text] One of the factors which determined the large dimensions of the Israeli operation in Lebanon was political: Israel believed it would be able to come to a direct agreement with Lebanon and Syria on the future of southern Lebanon. This was not helped by the hasty decision by the Security Council at the beginning of the week. These remarks were made today by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur, in an interview with Weekly Newsreel. The chief of staff added that the decision to reach the Litani River was linked with the introduction of the UN force to the area. The line along the Litani permits a convenient control over a possible infiltration by terrorists. The chief of staff was interviewed by 'Amiram Nir. [begin videotape]

[Question] The impression could be given that the implementation of the settlement in southern Lebanon has come up against many difficulties. The cease-fire, for example, is subject of doubts, the United Nations is not succeeding too well in taking up its positions along the Litani and the Christians are protesting very vigorously. Is this not, possibly, a pointer for the future, that the settlement will lack credibility?

[Answer] First, there really are difficulties. There are very many factors involved. The Christians are right to be afraid because, after a civil war which lasted for nearly 3 years and their having become accustomed on relying and trusting only the link with the IDF, they have reason for concern and we understand them and we will try, in any agreement, to guarantee their safety and existence. I imagine that, after explanations, we will come to an understanding with them and they will place no difficulties in front of the UN forces. We, as far as the State of Israel and the IDF are concerned, are offering all aid to the United Nations and, in my evaluation, the Lebanese Government will offer all aid to the United Nations.

[Question] What if the solution involving the United Nations had not been imposed--what in fact is the most desirable solution from Israel's point of view.

[Answer] The solutions can be varied and let us remember that the Government of Lebanon, with the aid of deterrent forces, that is, the Syrian force in particular, can control the terrorists' activity in the north.

[Question] Is this what you thought would happen after the IDF operation?

[Answer] Not only did I think, I still think that had those who rushed to decide on the United Nations not rushed, it would have been possible to come to both a direct agreement between us and the Lebanese Government, with the [Arab] peacekeeping forces, because the strength of the operation and its size demanded a change in the situation. What is, in fact, the main objective of a military operation if not a change in the foundations, a change in the political situation? Except that here they decided on the United Nations.

[Question] If the United Nations is the solution for the moment, do you think that the United Nations can provide a security buffer?

[Answer] The United Nations by itself, maybe not completely but, in my evaluation, there will be several other factors uniting around the United Nations. First of all, there is the IDF force which, even if it moves back, stands ready.

Secondly, the UN force with 4,000 soldiers is a real force and they can have a physical presence in very many places. The third factor is the sovereign Government of Lebanon. It accepted the UN decision and it wants to reinstate its sovereignty over southern Lebanon by sending its forces as well. The other factor which, without doubt, was faced with a problem which was not simple during that operation is the Syrians, the peacekeeping forces. We used a great deal of force here and, I would say, we worked tangentially to their forces and they should have, even for themselves, done some soul searching as to how far Syria--the Syrian forces spread out between Syria and Lebanon--can risk those tangents when they have no objective of war. I believe that if all these factors are put together--the IDF force, the decision by the State of Israel, the Lebanese desire for sovereignty, the UN presence--and I believe that they will do their job faithfully--and the understanding of the deterrent forces that there is a danger here in the terrorists' activity--all this together can create new foundations, and better ones.

[Question] What if the United Nations does not succeed in making a security buffer? What options are there for Israel after the United Nations takes up positions in the field?

[Answer] The United Nations has never been able to do its job anywhere if none of the sides want them. If a situation is created where there will be serious terrorist activity, the United Nations will have to draw its own conclusions. You have seen today, for example, in Norway, Sweden, that there is no small sensitivity regarding the fate of the soldiers. I imagine that the Canadians, the Iranians and others will also not agree to have their soldiers serve under fire. This means that there will then be a new situation. In that new situation there may be very many options. I must say, without being too optimistic, in view of the reactions to date, that with a little patience I do think that foundations can be laid.

[Question] Lieutenant General Gur, in the eyes of a military historian, possibly, what sort of an IDF was revealed to you during the operation?

[Answer] I prefer to quote what Raful [Chief of Staff-designate Refa'el Eytan] said to me. On one of the days when we came back from a visit to the field he said: Listen, the boys worked fine, just like they did in the exercises.

[Question] After every war one speaks of the lessons of the war. Is it possible to learn from this operation, this campaign, as you put it?

[Answer] Yes, there is one very important lesson to learn. One cannot learn too many lessons from this because this was not a war in the full sense of the word--no regular army stood facing us, the air force was not faced with air forces and it was not faced with antiaircraft missiles, the armored forces were not faced with antitank missiles or tanks and the infantry was not faced with heavy artillery--and I think that our main problem will be, from a professional military point of view, to analyze this campaign as a campaign or as an action under certain unique conditions and not to learn too much in terms of a modern campaign against large armies. But we have already shown and begun first of all to draw conclusions at the branch level, limited ones. I imagine that, within 2 or 3 weeks, we will get around to drawing conclusions for the entire army for campaigns of this type. If it is possible also to draw several conclusions for the army as a whole for total war--I imagine we will do so--but I must do this with great caution.

[Question] Lieutenant General Gur, we went out on this operation with a certain moral viewpoint. Perhaps, something on another moral question, the problem of the civilian fatalities and the destruction. Was the relatively large number, maybe hundreds, of Lebanese civilians killed in the course of the action and villages which were sacrificed really necessary?

[Answer] The questions faced us: How justified was it for us to take casualties by using less fire on those villages, and what was the most correct way to hit the terrorists. We decided that, on all grounds, it would be better to use the method of directing fire and afterwards moving in to mop up. As a result of that, those villages were badly hit.

[Question] I would nevertheless like to pause here on the moral aspect. Is the technical-military justification for hitting villages and the civilians living in them strong enough to justify a different moral level concerning the philosophy of security?

[Answer] Let us go back a little. If we are speaking of the philosophy of security we can go back a little. The northern border and its settlements suffered so much for very many years--innocent civilians, both women and children and adults were forced to live for fairly long periods of time in shelters, to travel in convoys, to be afraid of practically every bang of a cup or a door lest it turn out to be that of a bomb or a katyusha. That means that today we acted after very many years of unceasing suffering of tens of thousands of people, completely innocent; while on the other side there were villages which, willingly or unwillingly, but for years, hosted the terrorists and knew what they were doing. They hosted the terrorists before their action and they absorbed them after their action. We had very many reports of total cooperation between those villages and the terrorists. This means that, from the aspect of the historical philosophy of the problem of security between us and our neighbors there are no simple, easy solutions and we were forced for years to use various methods in various places.

I must remind you now that, as a result of terrorist activity in the Jordan Valley, the entire Jordan Valley was emptied of inhabitants. Our people did not evacuate, but they held on for 2 and 1/2 years, 3 years, under endless shellings and shooting and ambushes. This means that the question of suffering applies to both sides. The power of resistance of our inhabitants was stronger. When it came to the test we took into account the historic accumulation of our population's suffering and we had to decide whether the time had come to change that base of the terrorists and hit it or not. I do not think that there was any justification for having dozens more victims fall on Israel's side after a week of blood such as we already had or after all the first suffering of the people of the State of Israel. Somewhere there is a meeting of justice faced with justice and I have not a shadow of a doubt that this operation was based on national and human historic justice.

I regret very much the fact that civilians were hit on the other side and I am not just saying this, I am really sorry. But, in this fight between us and the Arabs, I think that it must be understood that it is impossible to place a population in the front line. If there is a legitimate fight, it must be carried out between armies. You cannot put a population on the front, firing line; not on our side and not on their side. So I said before that I hope that, in the settlement now being mulled over, this population, ours in the north of the country and theirs in southern Lebanon, will really get completely out of the fighting arena.

[Question] Inasmuch as you have already mentioned the historic perspective, this IDF operation in Lebanon is not isolated and maybe we should not regard it as being isolated, it is a part of a continuum of many years....

[Answer] Thirty years.

[Question] ...of fighting terror. What is its place in this continuum? Does it presage a new stage? Is it a continuation of a previous stage? Is it an end? Is it a middle?

[Answer] This operation is special for several reasons, although in actual fact it will be possible to judge it in a court of justice and truth only when we see where this campaign ends. A military action takes place to serve a certain political policy. If we do, indeed, reach a settlement in southern Lebanon, the action had a unique significance. If not, it will have been another one of the operations we have been carrying out for dozens of years in order to--excuse me for the phraseology--guard our existence. In the past, there were ups and downs in our activity against terrorism. There were retaliatory actions, there were reaction actions. Some of them brought results and some did not. To my pleasure, I must say that in the course of the 30 years I hinted at earlier, we nevertheless have succeeded, after struggles, after a great deal of pain and many victims, in reaching a cessation of terrorist activities on quite a lot of borders and by quite a few countries. If we ever succeed in coming to the point where, as a result of this campaign, direct terrorist activity will cease, even in Lebanon, then in my view this campaign will have had an importance which is quite different from those routine operations have. It is my hope that this will be the case.

I have personally taken part in campaigns of various types. It is not often that we have a campaign which changes a situation. For the moment, if you ask me, I have the feeling that the situation has, after all, changed. I mentioned that the justification for the Arab victims who fell both in this campaign and in others is that through this process the State of Israel becomes stronger, firmer and if this campaign which we are calling the Litani campaign brings about a stop to the activity in this part of the country, then it was worth it.

[Question] Thank you very much. [end videotape]

IDF COMMANDER DISCUSSES S. LEBANON SITUATION

TA261912Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The IDF is holding contacts with the headquarters of the UN forces and with the other elements in the field to find a settlement in southern Lebanon. The commander of the northern command, Avigdor Ben-Gal, said this today to our military correspondent Roni Dani'el. [begin recording]

[Dani'el] What must happen in the field in order for the IDF to leave?

[Answer] In my view, the conditions must be as follows: First, consolidation of the UN forces in the territory taken by our forces. The second thing: A total cessation of fire on the part of the terrorists who are continuing to bother both our forces and the settlements in northern Galilee and also the Christian enclaves. These are the basic conditions for the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

[Question] How is the Lebanese army being incorporated into this campaign in southern Lebanon, the campaign which will guard against terrorists infiltrating back into this area?

[Answer] The plan is to permit a part of the Lebanese army--and from my point of view, this is the Christian part--to move south of the Litani in order to occupy the hinterland--the depth of that area will be between the United Nations and the line where we stopped--and to let them administer the area we will leave and which the United Nations will guard along its periphery.

[Question] How do you see (Shidiaq) and Haddad and their soldiers fitting in this campaign?

[Answer] We are insisting and, if there is an agreement, we will continue to insist that those Christians in the enclaves be given the status of soldiers in the Lebanese army.

[Question] Major General Ben-gal, the fighting in southern Lebanon included fighting in territory which is primarily civilian and the civilian population was hit. What is the IDF doing today to deal with this civilian population in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] We are doing everything. We began a week ago in the medical sphere. We evacuated about 60 civilian casualties to hospitals in Israel. We have opened clinics in the large villages for the regular treatment of wounded who arrive daily. We are rehabilitating the ruined houses and we are beginning to rehabilitate the infrastructure--the water and electricity in southern Lebanon and houses which were destroyed as a result of direct hits. We are planning to transfer this week about 25 prefabricated houses in order to accommodate families who are returning from northern Lebanon.

[Question] The French have entered Tyre but katyushas are still being fired from Tyre. How do you evaluate the chances of the UN force to really impose order and calm in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] From the experience we have with the United Nations, it is capable of acting effectively and efficiently when both sides, from both sides of the line, permit them to work. For the moment, the terrorists are making the UN entry difficult and causing a holdup in the timetable. If one of the sides does not keep the agreement drawn up completely, it will be very difficult, I assume, for the UN forces efficiently to guard against renewed infiltration, a slow one, by terrorists, south of the Litani.

[Question] You mentioned an agreement drawn up--between whom? Who speaks in it?

[Answer] That agreement which is now being drawn up is between the State of Israel and the United Nations, the UN forces headquarters, and involving initial soundings with Lebanon.

[Question] The Syrians--to what extent are they a partner to this activity?

[Answer] The Syrians are, for the moment, not partners to the activity. As far as I know, and, as a result of this, they are not partners to the emerging agreement. That is a country with which one could bring the matter to a conclusion; when the matter is concluded, they make it a fact in the field, as, for example, on the Golan Heights, where, since the agreement there have been practically no incidents apart from one or two isolated blows on the Golan Heights from the Syrian direction. The calm on the Golan Heights is being kept in accordance with the last agreement concluded there with the Syrians.

IDF COULD AGREE TO SYRIAN ADVANCE TO LITANI

TA270950Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'agov Erez]

[Text] It is possible that an agreement may be reached between Israel and Syria on the southern Lebanon issue in the wake of the Syrian desire to reach the Litani River in return for which it would prevent the passage of terrorists to the southern region.

The IDF will probably agree to such a Syrian advance on the condition that they do not cross the Litani. It has been learned that the Syrians have expressed the desire to deploy on the northern bank of the Litani.

The 'red line' that was determined by the previous government runs 10 kilometers north of the Litani and the Syrians have not crossed the line with their units.

The deployment of the Syrians on the bank of the Litani will bring Syrian installations closer to the Galilee finger--it is only a few kilometers from the bend in the Litani River. From this region, near the township of Marj 'Uyun, the Syrians can look over the Christian enclave and the region north of the Galilee finger.

SYRIANS NOT PROPOSING TO RESTRAIN TERRORISTS

TA270954Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Arye Zimmugi, A. Elneqave, Yehuda Hame'iri]

[Excerpt] The Syrians have not proposed to the IDF or to any other element an agreement to prevent the infiltration of terrorists to southern Lebanon in return for an agreement to deploy forces on the northern bank of the Litani. This was said this morning by an authoritative source in Jerusalem to our correspondent.

At the same time, this source did point out that the Syrians were, to a certain degree, contributing to calm and a settlement in southern Lebanon, by preventing the terrorists from moving in large numbers toward the south and by preventing the supply of weapons to the terrorists in the region.

SHI'ITES AGREEMENT TO JOIN CHRISTIANS REPORTED

TA270647Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Notables and representatives of the Shi'ite community in southern Lebanon expressed readiness to establish at once a joint defensive framework with the Christians in order to prevent a return of the terrorists to the villages of the south.

Our correspondent in the north, Yehezq'el Hame'iri, toured the Shi'ite villages yesterday and he reports that representatives of the community and heads of local councils met in the villages to discuss the call of the commander of the Lebanese forces in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'ad Haddad. He invited them to a meeting today, with the view of coopting the Shi'ites in defending the south against terrorists. The Shi'ite representatives told our correspondent they make their joining the Phalangist units contingent upon the proviso that their men receive a status equal to that of the Phalangists.

WEIZMAN, PERES COMMENT ON NATIONAL UNITY CABINET

TA242058Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 24 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondents Dan Raviv and Elimelekh Ram today heard details from 'Ezer Weizman about his call for a broadening of the cabinet and reactions from representatives of parties in the coalition and the opposition. [begin videotape]

[Weizman] I estimate that today we are in a political situation not as good as in the past. I believe that when a country is in any sort of crisis, and I think that we are in a situation not as good as in the past, unity and unification bring much greater strength--for example, the eve of the 6-day war, when we were faced with difficult problems. With justification Mr Menahem Begin was incorporated, with other labor members such as Mr Sapir and Moshe Dayan, into the national unity cabinet at that time and we had great achievements. I estimate and believe that it will then be much easier for Prime Minister Menahem Begin to stand up to global problems and obtain positive results for the State of Israel.

[Ram] Maybe it will be more difficult for him, because every opinion or view within the cabinet will pull toward its own side. Could it not actually make it more difficult for a cabinet to make decisions?

[Weizman] We already sit with different views and, under the leadership of Menahem Begin, we are pulled in a certain direction. I believe that a further addition for a broader basis--with this it will be possible to come to an understanding and agreement as to where the boat is sailing under the captaincy of Menahem Begin.

[Ram] How far do you think that the Likud should go toward the Alinement or toward the Labor Party in order to incorporate them into the cabinet?

[Weizman] That is not my job today, I will not tell you that. If the proposal is accepted, and I was happy to hear that the prime minister has always been--and repeated that today as well--in favor of a national unity cabinet; if this or that party wants to join we will sit down with them and talk. If we reach agreement, I'll be happy; if we don't, then we'll sail the boat on our own.

[Raviv] Mr Shim'on Peres, are you taking seriously 'Ezer Weizman's proposal to establish a national peace cabinet with your participation?

[Peres] I assume that Mr Weizman proposed it seriously. In my view, the problem is not the composition of the cabinet, the problem is the cabinet's program and, in order to make peace or in order to advance in the political negotiations, a program is needed first of all.

[Raviv] On the basis of the Likud program, that of the coalition, you do not see the Labor Party as a member of the coalition?

[Peres] Certainly not. We have two completely different programs. We are not exactly an opposition, we are an alternative. In fact, Mr Begin proposed to us that we should join his cabinet right after the president gave him the task of making up the cabinet. He came to us, to the Ministry of Defense. I told him no, because you have a program, whose results will be such and such--which in fact has happened--and we have another view and we hope that it will lead to other results. I told him then and I say so today as well: The Labor Party's view is not only for the purposes of political negotiations, it also deals with the layout of the country in the future with the aim of preserving the Jewish character of the State of Israel.

[Raviv] Will you not join the cabinet even in order to stand up against expected pressures by the Americans or against the crisis in the relations between the two countries?

[Peres] In what concerns the U.S. pressures, we will stand together, but it is not enough only to stand up against pressures in order to remove them or in order to gain the sympathy of U.S. public opinion or in order to advance toward peace. Quite simply, we need another program. It is impossible to make policy only out of negatives. We also need positives and it is impossible to make a negative national consensus. We must also make a positive national program, this is a condition for Israel's advancement. We are a realistic movement.

[Raviv] Do you believe that there may be U.S. intervention in any form in order to stir up feelings within the Israeli ruling body and to try and replace this or that personality within it?

[Peres] I have read that report. It is childish. In my view, it is cooked up for the microphone and even the one who invented it simply does not know either history or reality. When have the Americans ever appointed our prime minister? Did they appoint Mr Begin? Did they appoint Mrs Meir? Will they appoint the future prime minister? This shows some one who is severed from reality, or he heard gossip, or maybe he did not hear gossip, it is simply not pleasant for us to get to that level and cause the self-degradation of the country without any foundations. With all my criticism of Mr Begin's policy--and criticism we have made in the past and are making in the present and will make in the future--in all sincerity, I do not accept the way in which the Americans dealt with Mr Begin on his visit. Mr Begin is the representative of the State of Israel and the whole country should certainly be concerned to see that he is treated with the honor due him.

[Raviv] Mr Peres, if we take into account the Israeli and U.S. statements, if we take into account the Israeli peace program and the way it was received in the United States and the Arab positions, do you think that the peace process has, in the current phase, reached its end?

[Peres] Not necessarily. There are differences of opinion between us on the evaluation of the situation and the aims of the Egyptians and what Israel should do and I want to identify this. It is, after all, important. What has happened positively in the last few months is as follows: The Americans are not demanding a Palestinian state. The Americans, the Egyptians and the Jordanians are not insisting on the incorporation of the PLO. As opposed to this, I think we made a mistake, or the cabinet made a mistake, in wanting 242 not to include Judaea and Samaria after we had previously agreed to this and we got into a verbal argument now going on, and on this we have differences of opinion with the Likud and with Mr Begin.

In my view, what As-Sadat wants is a far-reaching declaration by Israel concerning the future of Judaea and Samaria; a declaration which the Alinement, to a certain extent, can give while retaining loyalty to its platform. I am not sure that, if Israel gives such a declaration, Husayn will really enter the negotiations, in spite of the fact that I would like him to enter. I do believe, however, that if such a declaration is given, we will be able to advance as far as signing an agreement with Egypt. Thus, the matter is most serious in evaluating the situation or in the conclusions it demands. The personal, party, tactical matters are of no interest today. We are standing at a crossroads. A courageous decision must be made not on the basis of gossip, not on the basis of chit chat, when we get down to it. Anyone who says that peace has no risks is wrong. All I'm saying is that there is an even greater risk in a situation of no peace.

[Minister Yig'al Horowitz] A national peace cabinet, that is the present cabinet. It led to an unprecedented concessionary declaration of peace and the fact that it does not satisfy the Arabs and apparently does not satisfy the Americans means that they are insisting that we return to the 1967 borders--and let us not spread smoke among our own forces, they don't have to help us in this. There will be no settlement without their returning us to the 1967 borders if we give in and accept their demands.

[Ram] Mr Horowitz, would you agree with me that there is a political crisis at this moment? Do you not think that, in such a situation, a cabinet should be established that will unite the whole nation?

[Horowitz] The question is for what. We need a cabinet as broad as possible in order to defend Israel, not in order to disarm it, not in order to retreat. A cabinet which will help toward a retreat; we don't need it. We must broaden the cabinet and its wings in order to guard the State of Israel and not, heaven forbid, to demilitarize it.

[Ram] In other words, you are against a national unity cabinet at this time?

[Horowitz] I am in favor of a national unity cabinet which will defend the State of Israel.

[Ram] What is your reaction to the remarks made by that U.S. senior official about the need to replace the prime minister?

[Horowitz] It may be that he built on the fact that in Israel any U.S. pressure will at once cause disintegration. Sir, the nation is much stronger than what the U.S. official thinks and the U.S. pressure will lead us to form one iron bloc.

[Raviv] Professor Rubinstein, do you support broadening the composition of the coalition framework?

[Rubinstein] Yes, I already expressed that view in private conversations 3 weeks ago. I support that on condition, of course, that it will be a national peace cabinet and I do not, of course, imagine that the Alinement will agree to enter such a cabinet camouflaging the basic lines of the Likud. That is not conceivable.

[Raviv] In what way should such a peace cabinet be different in its policy from the current cabinet?

[Rubinstein] I think that it will not be able to accept the basic lines of the Likud, which are completely different from the basic lines of other parties.

[Raviv] That is, in other words, you, Professor Rubinstein, are calling for the replacement of the cabinet?

[Rubinstein] No, I am calling for the broadening of the cabinet and for the destruction of the restriction making a moderate, wise policy by the cabinet difficult.

[Raviv] In other words, in your evaluation, Mr Begin could serve as the prime minister of such a cabinet?

[Rubinstein] Certainly.

[Raviv] Do you think there is a chance that he will accept a peace program of the sort you want?

[Rubinstein] I hope so, but this is something you will have to ask him.

[Raviv] Changing the subject, do you see as possible the establishment of a coalition made up of the liberals, the DMC and the Alinement?

[Rubinstein] I do not see any chance of this and I also, apart from press gossip, have not seen any signs of this in the field, no signs. I think that this is journalistic speculation, at this stage at any rate. I have not seen any sign of this.

[Raviv] Professor Rubinstein, if what you call a national peace cabinet is not established, will the DMC continue to serve in the present cabinet?

[Rubinstein] The decision on this matter is up to the DMC council. It is this body which decided to enter the cabinet and the conditions of entry and it is the only one that can change these conditions. For my own part, at this stage, I would prefer that every effort be made by the DMC, its ministers and Knesset members and activists to influence the cabinet of Israel and make all the cabinet members and the prime minister aware of the gravity of the moment and the crossroads at which Israel is standing.

[Raviv] Professor Rubinstein, if you permit me, these positions of your are not new. Do you think you will succeed in making Mr Begin think like you?

[Rubinstein] I will make every effort. I think that the peace program, as I said, the prime minister's peace program, as it was presented and as it was explained in the United States, on his visit, was a fair and reasonable basis for peace with Egypt and the Arab countries. I also support it, with certain reservations, on the basis of what was said there. The key sentence in Mr Begin's words in the United States was: We have not come to rule a foreign people. If this sentence is translated into the language of action, if it is translated into the language of the declaration of intentions, instead of all the unclear arguing and bargaining--I do not understand it--over each and every word in that draft, if that is the basis, in my view it will be possible to reach a rehabilitation of Israel's international status. It is possible to rehabilitate the relations with the United States and it is also possible to try and reach peace with Egypt, and perhaps with the other Arab countries.

[Raviv] Since matters are now developing, in your estimation, as well, rapidly, is there a period of time during which you are prepared to give this cabinet a chance of standing by the criteria you are laying down for its activity?

[Rubinstein] In my view, it is a matter of days--at the most, weeks.

[Raviv] If the cabinet does not see this as you do, Mr Rubinstein, if your peace program is not accepted by the cabinet within the period of days or weeks, are you going to recommend to the DMC council that the DMC leave the cabinet?

[Rubinstein] I need to think. [end videotape]

YEDI'OT AHARONOT REVIEWS CURRENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE

TA241320Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Mar 78 pp 1, 4 TA

[By Eytan Haber and Bina Barzel]

[Excerpts] "We are on the eve of taking crucial decisions that will decide the fate and shape of the State of Israel and, therefore, I propose that a national peace government be established." The defense minister said in a talk with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

"I do not doubt that we will soon have to make highly important decisions. Our situation now is similar, to a certain extent, to the situation during the waiting period prior to the 6-day war. We then had to take hard and fateful decisions about going to war. We do not have to decide on going to war now, but the impending decisions will determine the shape and form of the State of Israel just as the decisions we made in 1967 determined to a large degree the shape of the State of Israel today. Every decision we make will affect the shape of the country. Just as on the eve of the 6-day war historic decisions were needed and were taken by a large front, now also, perhaps more than ever, there is a good and similar reason to establish a broad base government. I propose that all the parties come and join. If they want to join, please! Since it is surely possible that the situation now is even harder than that existing on the eve of the 6-day war."

The defense minister did not go into detail as to which parties he was talking about. However, it seems that his main reference is to the Labor Party. He did not hold talks on this matter with Labor Party personages. This call of his is a first and public call and is not based on any overt or covert talks. Weizman telephoned Yehi'el Qadishay, the head of the prime minister's office, while Begin was in the United States, to inform him of his intention to make this public declaration.

The defense minister emphasized that we are now on the threshold of a sharp confrontation with the United States and Israel should unite just as it should during a grave hour of crisis. The anticipated political fight, he remarked, will be harder than a military fight and "a national peace government" will be able to stand in this hard confrontation with the United States and will aim at peace with Egypt.

Various personalities reacted this morning to the defense minister's suggestion to set up a national peace government among them:

Chairman of the Labor Party MK Shim'on Peres: "First of all a national peace plan is needed, and only on the basis of this plan will it be possible to set up a government."

Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin: "If there are grounds that will enable accepting a common platform, I certainly support it."

MK Gad Ya'acobi: "In my opinion the Labor Party will not join a government headed by Mr Begin, or any national unity government in the structure of the present government. On this subject there is almost complete unanimity in the Labor Party. I cannot conceive of a change in the near future in this position."

MK Ya'acobi added, that "the name of the government does not change its policy and its composition." By that he referred to Weizman's suggestion to call the extended government a "peace government."

Minister of Education Zevulun Hammer: "First of all we must hear Begin and assess on the basis of his words precisely how serious the situation is and what are the steps for which we must prepare. According to this there will be need to decide what the organizational needs of the country are. I am always in favor of a national unity government, in principle. I will be very happy if the Labor Party will agree to join this government, headed by Begin, and I shall regard it as a very blessed step."

These comments are being published while the echoes of the "bomb" fired into the Israeli political sphere have not yet quieted down. [paragraph continues]

Israel's broadcasting service has reported that a certain senior U.S. personality told a senior Israeli personality that in order for the peace negotiations to succeed, there is a need to change the administration in Israel and specifically to change the prime minister, as well as to consolidate a new political system in the country.

Our correspondent Arye Zimmuqi has learned that the reported talk took place between a U.S. diplomat and one of the heads of the Labor Party, who once served as a senior minister. The talk took place last Friday, that is, before the Begin-Carter talks began.

The diplomat's words, published yesterday, aroused great surprise among political circles in Jerusalem. One of the heads of the Labor Party regards them as a crude interference with Israel's internal affairs, which resembles CIA intervention in overthrowing regimes in various countries.

Only the chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres reacted briefly.

Peres said: "The prime minister is appointed by the Israeli Knesset, and by the Knesset alone." On the question who was "one of the heads of the Labor Party who presumably talked with a U.S. personality," Peres replied: "Not me." He added that he does not know of others in the opposition who held such a talk.

The reports on the prime minister's hard talks in the United States aroused wide reaction in the coalition and opposition parties yesterday. These reactions ranged from support for the prime minister to bitter criticism of him, which included considerations of a possible new formation of a coalition. The reactions gave proof of the dissatisfaction with the situation, and they included part of the coalition parties.

Our correspondents Bina Barzel, Gid'on Reicher and Avner Tavori report on these reactions:

MK Hillel Seidel, chairman of the "Ihud" faction in the Likud, began acting for the setting up of a national unity government yesterday. Among other things MK Seidel called Prime Minister Begin in the United States and asked him to widen the government's foundation by adding other political bodies, especially the Alinement.

The chairman of the Herut faction in the Knesset Likud party, MK Hayyim Corfu, gave his blessing to that initiative. He said that in his opinion the majority of the members of the Alinement may respond to this initiative and enter the extended government.

ABBA EBAN INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS

TA241830Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 24 Mar 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Text] MK Abba Eban, member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and former foreign minister, is here in our Tel Aviv studio. We asked him to evaluate the status of Israeli-U.S. relations at this moment. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital speaks with him.

[Question] Mr Eban, we hear from both the United States and the Israelis who have returned from talks there today that, in spite of these having been hard talks in Washington, there is no crisis and the negotiations will continue. What, in your view, will the United States do now? In what form will the negotiations' impetus continue?

[Answer] I will permit myself to preface my remarks with a comment. The duty of the opposition, to which I belong, is the duty to make practical criticism. I say this as against the blind words spoken by Minister Shostak on the opposition and its duty to criticize. It is true that we are not taking full advantage of the duty to criticize with that amount of verbal violence which had been the custom for 29 years, but to propose alternative lines of policy is our duty, our responsibility; we are honored by it. As for the American problem, the word crisis is possibly not essential to describe the gravity of the situation, but there is a hard dispute. I have criticism for moves made by the cabinet of Israel, but I have no common front with the U.S. administration. On the contrary, the U.S. administration has, in my view, shown less wisdom and level-headedness than what could have been expected, and through this the U.S. administration contributed its part toward the worsening which has taken place over recent weeks. Therefore, I think that it is possible to renew the negotiations only if all three of the partners, and not only Israel--the United States and Egypt as well--if each of these partners takes some lessons in modesty and soul searching. The main task is to reach an agreed text of common principles, with the main obstacle, to my regret, being the inability to come to an agreement on the principle of territorial compromise in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

[Question] Mr Eban, how, in actual fact, does one take lessons in modesty and soul searching?

[Answer] Yes, what were the errors? The Israeli errors have been under the spotlights all the time: the acts of settlement and archeology which sullied the good atmosphere created in Ismailia and the great obstacles of giving Resolution 242 an interpretation which has no possibility of being accepted seriously by any country in the world and also giving what was possibly an exaggerated impression of the degree of backing which the peace program received from the United States and Britain at the beginning of the process. However, there have also been U.S. mistakes, mainly that the United States has not made and is not making a convincing attempt to get Egypt to take up the negotiations specifically and seriously concerning the problem of security and borders.

As-Sadat is apparently sunk in the illusion that the fact of his recognition of the legitimacy of Israel's existence solves the problem of security. It may very well be that some Israeli statements in the past contributed to the illusion, when it was said that the heart of the problem was only the Arabs' refusal to recognize our legitimate existence. This gives a mistaken impression that a solution of the problem of legitimacy automatically solves the problem of security, and this is not so.

Even after solving the problem of legitimacy, there is the problem of security, border adjustments, buffer zones, balances of forces, and As-Sadat is refusing to enter into [a discussion of] this. Let us assume that he has solved 70 percent of the problem by his recognition of us. What of the remaining 30 percent? What is the advantage of a bridge only 70 percent erected? The United States is not making an effort to convince As-Sadat of the need to moderate his positions. The effort the United States is directing at Israel is understandable but not balanced.

[Question] We should say here Mr Eban, perhaps, that the United States, in its talks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Washington, did not express a U.S. position but said: Here, this is the Egyptian position and if you want to come to a settlement you must accept this position. Here there are several other points in addition to what you have mentioned.

[Answer] Yes, according to my diagnosis, the United States should indeed say, precisely, here are Egypt's positions, but it should add, I, the United States, I will try to moderate those positions and to bring them closer to your positions and then, in any case, the United States will also have an increased right to demand that the prime minister of Israel moderate his positions. I have the impression that the U.S. effort, however understandable it is from the viewpoint of the United States, focused too much only on Israel.

[Question] Mr Abba Eban, you referred earlier to the formulation of the territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria, which is the heart of the problem, in your view. It appears that this formulation, which will certainly be accepted by the opposition to Mr Begin at home, but would maybe not be accepted by the Americans and certainly not by the Arabs, is the compromise.

[Answer] No, that is not true. It is true that we have a dispute with the United States concerning the dimensions of the compromise, but there is a great difference between a quantitative argument and an argument in principle. Regarding the setup in the United States, the argument is really quantitative. It may be that the United States wants our concessions to be greater than those for which we in the alinement are prepared. But there is, nevertheless, a difference between that and a dispute between the doctrine of territorial compromise and someone who says that, altogether, Judaea and Samaria and Gaza are not included in that category of concesions and that 242 did not apply to those areas. But, in the matter of compromise, there is... [Qital attempts to interrupt] that is, I think that, between the Alinement position and that of the United States, the proximity will be at least sufficient to arrive at an agreement, at least a tactical one, for a short time; for example: the Aswan formulation does not frighten the Alinement.

The United States in fact did not ask us to retreat from all the territories--that is not its demand--but that we accept the principle that 242 applies to all the areas; that is, the principle of withdrawal without indicating its dimensions, and that we should say something about the participation of the Palestinians in determining their future. In my view it is easier to bridge this gap then to bridge a gap between someone who says everything and someone who says nothing. With regard to the territories which are to be conceded in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza, in the event of a peace treaty, there are four versions concerning how much to concede: The Arabs say all, the Americans say most of them, the Alinement says some of them and the current cabinet says nothing. I would propose giving up the two extremes, the 'all' which is impossible and the 'nothing', and between the concept of most of them or some of them it would be possible, in my view, to come to a dialog.

[Question] Yes, but Mr Eban, it is worth adding--you are saying that the present government's formula is: nothing doing with respect to Judaea and Samaria. Perhaps it is nothing doing with respect to territorial concessions, but one cannot say that the present government has no plan for Judaea and Samaria--to create a reality that is different from the present reality there.

[Answer] Yes, certainly. I have always called for autonomy as a stage in a solution. I heard and agreed with the deputy prime minister's remarks. However, there is a difference between saying autonomy without our rejecting the option of also conceding sovereignty over certain territories after the autonomy and saying autonomy is the end of the road, without there ever being foreign rule over any area west of the Jordan River. In the first instance, the autonomy can be a stage in the dynamics--without, however, being able to foresee all its developments; in the second instance, if autonomy is the end of the road in satisfying the Arab demands, then it is clear that this satisfies neither the Arab demands nor the U.S. evaluation.

It is a fact that the United States stresses that, were Israel to accept at this stage the principle of the validity of 242 without defining the scope of the concession, then the United States would breath a sign of relief and might, perhaps, work more conscientiously toward renewing the momentum of negotiations. Therefore, the distinction between the Alinement and the coalition is no small thing--perhaps before November it was a matter of image and propaganda--now it is something operative and I believe that public opinion and the Knesset will have to decide on this matter.

[Question] As for defining the reality in which we find ourselves at present, for example, yesterday, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said we have known more difficult times than these in the past. We had crises in 1956, for example. How do you view this?

[Answer] You are picking at my memory because then I was responsible for conducting the negotiations. I hope that the foreign minister's equation is balanced, because in 1956-1957 it was clear that despite the severity of the tension the path to cooperation between the United States and Ben-Gurion would be found again. The United States wanted Israel's withdrawal, Israel wanted freedom of shipping and an international presence in Gaza and in the end each got what it wanted--the United States obtained our withdrawal; we, after all, got freedom of shipping in the Straits of Tiran and also a UN army that prevented attacks from Gaza. That is to say, at that time it was clear that Ben-Gurion would be able to achieve a rapprochement and compromise with the United States. The question that worries me--and, it appears, our friends in the world--is will Mr Begin understand that, with all his natural loyalty to the principles of his peace plan, he must make an additional effort on the central issue that I have mentioned? Whoever says, this is my plan and I refuse to change, develop or violate it, it is sanctified, you once welcomed it, welcome it again--I hope that he understands that in our present situation a further intellectual and political effort is required.

[Question] Mr Eban, our time is short. Therefore, in one sentence--a national peace government--or as the prime minister defined it, a national unity government. Are you in favor or against?

[Answer] No, I understand Weizman's mood as well as the interest that the initiative aroused. However, in my opinion, preference should be given to changing the policy and not necessarily changing the composition of the government. I'll put it this way: Were Mr Begin's government to adopt a reasonable position--242, a willingness in principle to make certain concessions in Judaea and Samaria--then I would propose not raising the issue of the composition of the government within the present parliamentary reality. I hope that the Labor Party--having the example of the DMC [Democratic Movement for Change], which hoped that by entering the government it would change policy, staring it in the face--I hope that the Labor movement decides, if such an appeal is made to it, to say, first of all, let's talk about policy, and in accordance with what is decided with respect to policy, we will decide on the composition. To speak about composition before speaking about policy is a case of putting the cart before the horse.

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